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Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 11th. 1863.

Messrs. J. J. Patterson, & Co. Augusta, Geo.

Gentlemen; Your dispatch, of 5th inst., announcing failure in your supply of paper, and consequent failure in delivery of notes, was received on the 6th inst. in my absence. Since my return, I have expected a letter, with more full explanation, as your contract was, seemingly based upon a supply of 100.000 sheets in hand, & such was the impression upon the mind of Mr Haines, our Agent. Not anticipating any failure, at least, to that extent, the Comptroller arranged his clerical force, accordingly, & at the outset is met with a disappointment which he did not anticipate, & many of his employees are subjected to inconvenience & loss. My own efforts were directed only to provide for the 300.000 sheets, without, & were remitted upon receiving notice of your Contract with the Bath Mills. I trust your explanation will prove satisfactory, & that future failures may be avoided.

Resp'y, Yrs. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 11th, 1863.

Mr L. Spigner, Choctaw Bluff;

Dear Sir; Absence, on a visit to North Alabama has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 26th Ult. I deeply regret the disappointments & delays attending the works on the rivers, & profoundly sympathize with you in the annoyances to which you have been subjected— many of them were, perhaps, unavoidable. This is a time when everything seems to be out of joint. The best intentions & labors do not meet adequate success. My position enables me to see it all. We have done all we could, at the Capitol, to expedite the works under your charge, to furnish the labor, & to secure abundant provision Stuffs. The Officers, through whom we have to operate, have their difficulties, but have not been so prompt, & efficient as they could & should have been. But I hope matters are much improved by now; & General Goldthwaite goes down to see you all, & to assist in righting-up any thing which needs attention. I thank you for your energy, and Self-denial, in your patriotic work. You are laboring for your Country, & I hope, will consent to endure further annoyances, to finish up the job. We cannot dispense with your valuable services, without public detriment, & I hope it may be agreeable to you to continue until the boom is finished.

Resp'y, Yrs. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 10th 1863.

Hon: N. H. Moore; A. D. C. Choctaw Bluff, Ala.

Sir; The Engineer-Department, in a letter to Capt: Farrand, &, also, to me, proposes, upon terms— agreeable to me— & with the consent of Capt: Farrand, & the approval of Gen. Buckner, to take supervision & charge of the defences & obstructions, at Oven-Bluff; and, in a letter of this date, under cover of which this is forwarded, I have signified to Gen. Leadbetter, My acceptance of the proposal. You will, therefore turn-over to Capt: Walker, C. S. Engineer at Oven-Bluff, all the timber, lumber, material, tools, Slaves, & teams, with their organization, now on hand, & employed at that Point, that the work on the obstructions may proceed without delay. Adjutant General Goldthwaite will proceed down the river, in a few days, & will call upon you when he goes.

Very Resp'y Yrs. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 10th 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Head-Quarters, Mobile, Ala.

Sir, I returned from N. Ala. on Saturday, & avail myself of the earliest opportunity to advise you, that the requisitions for a large increase of laborers, at Mobile, & on our rivers defenses will be filled as rapidly as possible. Orders are, now sending-out for this purpose, & I enclose you, herewith, a copy of my Circular letter to the impressment-agents, to which I beg to call your attention. The proposition submitted by Gen. Leadbetter to take charge of the works for obstructing the Tombigbee river, is cheerfully accepted, & I have, to day, written him, fully, on the subject; which letter I hope, he will submit for your examination.

Very Resp'y Yr obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Feby 10th 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineers, Mobile, Ala.

Sir, Your letter of 29th ult. proposing to take charge of the obstructions to be placed in the Dombigbee river, came to hand, during my absence into N. Ala., whence I returned on Saturday last. Your proposition is cheerfully accepted, & I enclose a letter to Ex-Gov Moore, my Aid de Camp at the Bluffs, to turn over to your Department all the timber, tools, laborers &c. so you may proceed, without delay, to the completion of the works. I have, on my table, your letter to Capt. Farrand, on the same subject, and a copy of his reply, which he has referred for my decision. I have written him to-day fully, on the subject, & have no doubt that he will cordially acquiesce in the plan suggested. In this connection, it is due to Capt. Farrand, that I should say, that he was invited, by me, to submit a plan for river obstructions, & then urged to superintend the construction; & it is due to myself to say that my application was made to him, after ineffectual efforts to obtain, from the Engineer Department, a plan, which it would undertake to fulfil. This was all before your arrival in Mobile; and I am now gratified that, under your vigorous & skillful administration, the Engineer Department will take full Control of the defensive works in the Dombigbee River; & hope that the obstructions proposed may be found practicable & effectual. I will, with the greatest pleasure, co-operate with you, by every means in my power, to expedite the completion of the works. The requisition for the large additional force of laborers for Mobile & the river works, will be met as fast as it will be possible to gather & send forward the Negroes & teams. The number is so great that it is necessary to distribute the burden over a large portion of the state. I am, now, sending out the appropriate orders. Enclosed is a copy of the circular letter, addressed to impressment Agents.

Resp'y, Y'r obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb'y 12th, 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineers, Mobile.

Sir, Your letter of 10th inst. in relation to clothing for Slaves, employed on defenses at Mobile, is at hand. We have, on hand, six bales, containing, about, 3,700 Yards, with Quarter-Master Pickett, from Scott's Factory at Tuscaloosa, 7/8 wide, invoiced at 40 cents. If you wish it, & will Telegraph to that effect, I will order it shipped, immediately. The osnaburgs, from Pratt's Factory, is yard wide, & is made for Salt-Sacks, but I will turn over enough of that to make up the 4500 Yards required. The first named goods will suit your purpose best, & make up more conveniently.

Very Resp'y,

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb'y 12th, 1863.

Gen. John H. Kenny, Greeneville, Ala.

Sir, Your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to Slaves & teams impressed from Butler Co. is at hand. In reply, I would state that, feeling the necessity to which you allude, & being in constant receipt of letters on the subject, I addressed a letter to Gen. Buckner, & also had a personal interview with him, urging the necessity of the return of the Slaves & teams which had been in service for sixty days. He acquiesced in these views, & gave his promise that they should be returned. The construction of new works at Mobile induced a call for three thousand more laborers, at that point, & two thousand at the Bluffs, & the replies, to recent letters upon the subject, state that the laborers, now at work, will be discharged so soon as the new levies can take their places. Butler Co. has been omitted in this assessment, the orders for which are now extending, & the labors going forward. I confidently expect an early, if not an immediate return of the quota from Butler.

Very resp'y,

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

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(Written at Huntsville Ala, dated as above)

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. January 31st. 1863.

Hon. C. C. Clay, Sen. C. S. from Ala. Richmond Va.

My dear Sir, I write in behalf of a Gallant officer—Commander S. Farrand, of the Navy, who has done much for the Confederacy, in the successful defense of James' River, & who is doing much for Alabama, in the active and energetic direction of our river defenses, at Choctaw-Coven Bluffs, a work which he is carrying-on with unflagging purpose, in the face of many obstacles & hindrances, & this, while engaged in superintending the building of three Gunboats on the Bigbee, one at Montgomery, & one at Selma, as well as two Iron batteries, for the Defense of Mobile. His present grade is, I learn, the same which he held in the U.S. Service, which he was one of the first to leave, & I have understood, also, that he would have been promoted to a Captaincy, before this time, but for the act of Congress, of 21st April, 1862, which limited the number of Captains, in our Navy, to twelve. To authorize his promotion, of course, an amendment increasing the number of Captains would be necessary. I think that Virginia would act with Alabama, in doing justice to an officer, who has rendered the most important services to the one, & who is, now, laboring, most earnestly, for the protection of the other. If is proper, perhaps, that I should say—I am prompted by no other feeling or motive than a sense of justice to an accomplished & meritorious officer, who, by his gallantry & ability, has contributed, largely to the success of our cause. I have no doubt, as I have already intimated, that the Delegation of Virginia would willingly, act with our own, in exerting their joint influence, in obtaining the necessary amendment to the Act referred to, & also, in properly presenting the claim of Commander F. to the President, for promotion. The two States are under heavy obligation to him. Had the press of my other engagements permitted, I would have written to each on of our Delegation; as it is, I will thank you to confer with Hon. W. Yancey & the Representatives from this State, for the purpose of securing their influence, in behalf of one who is working most zealously, & efficiently, for the safety & welfare of their state.

Very truly,
(signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 13th, 1863.

Lieut. L. Hill, Enrolling Officer, Wetumpka, Ala.

Sir, I am informed that you propose to enroll, as a Conscript, one L. P. Henderson, Coroner of Autauga Co. Against this action, I protest. Coroners are Executive Officers of the State, & have not been declared liable to Military Duty. Should you think otherwise, I ask you to refer the matter to your Superior Officers, for further instruction.

Resp'y, Yr Ob't Serv't, (signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 13th, 1863.

Thomas Armstrong, Esq. Sheriff of Henry Co.

Sir. Having understood that the parties, under arrest in your County, & in confinement in your jail, express a desire to return to their allegiance, you are, hereby authorized to discharge them, upon their taking the oath of allegiance, & giving a written pledge of honor, to give their support & influence to the execution of the Laws-Confederate State. It is not the desire of the Government, to punish, where offenses are atoned for; & it is with extreme regret, that I am under the necessity of even restraint to secure obedience, & with unfeigned pleasure that I am able to direct the exercise of clemency, where it is consistent with the duties I owe to the State. You will forward your account for jail-fees for payment; & direct the Officers in command of the State-Guard, who have assisted in their apprehension, to forward their accounts, separately, certified by them, for expenses incurred, with authority for payment.

Very Resp'y. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department; Montg'y, Ala. Feb 13th 63

Gen't D. C. Green, Qr. Mr. Gen't Mobile; Sir, absence from the Capitol has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of 28th Ult; enclosing estimate of funds, for your Department, for Qr ending 31st March. Accordingly, I hand you, herewith, check on your city Banks, for the sum of $63. 427.75. Resp'y, Yr ob't Serv't.

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Feb. 13th, 1863.

Thomas Armstrong, Esq. Sheriff of Henry Co.

Sir; Col. James A. Clanton had authority to receive into his Command, all Conscripts in your County; You will, therefore, offer free, & full pardon to any parties who have been engaged in resistance to the Laws, who will Volunteer with Col Clanton; who are within the ages liable to military duty & subject under the call of the President To all who are over that age, you will offer a free pardon, upon their taking the oath of allegiance, & signing a written pledge of honor to give their support & influence to the execution of the laws. You will please communicate this order to the Col of the 77th Regiment, & the Capts. of the State Guards, and give it a general circulation in the disaffected region.

Very resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 13th, 1863.

Col. L. C. Garland, Univr. of Ala.

Sir, Yours of 7th inst is received. I have, to-day written Hon. W. Jemison jr. so to arrange matters with Mr Foster, as to provide for the fulfillment of his Contract for the Cadets of the University, & presume there will be no difficulty in so doing.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 13th, 1863.

Hon. W. Jemison, jr. Tuscaloosa.

Sir; I returned, a few days since, from my visit to North Alabama, & to the army in Tennessee, very much pleased with my trip, & with the general condition of affairs. I enclose the permit or certificate asked for, by Messrs Leach & Avery, which, I hope, may reach them in time. With respect to the Salt, I am a little at a loss, though your suggestion seems a proper one. The supply for Pickens, Fayette, & Marion will be shipped by the river, so long as it is up; and for the last two Counties, Gen. Green will ship to Columbus, Miss. I think it will be best to put the price at $3 per bushel, & furnish the County Court what it may need of it; reserving the proportions due to Walker & Winston Counties. They will need it after awhile, & the article will continue to be scarce, as private works, in Clarke are being suspended, & the State works in Clarke will not yield any thing like an adequate supply. I am pleased to inform you, that, upon enquiry, I found our troops were better supplied, by the War Department, with shoes & clothing than I had supposed. The main body of the armies every-where are well-clad, & in fine health & spirits. Our Alabama Regiments, which were reported suffering, have been supplied, on application to our assistant Qr. Mr at Richmond, or in this City. I do not believe, now, that there will be any farther suffering, if the officers will take the pains to make timely provision for their men. The Secretary of War advised me that he would pay $7 per pair, for shoes, but we have, not yet, turned any over to him, as they have applied for by troops, as fast—or nearly so—as we received a supply. Besides, the State cannot save any thing now, at that price. The Government has a large quantity of leather, besides hides, now in tanneries. The Qr. Mr. at Huntsville, but a short time since, sent down, to Georgia factories, a very heavy shipment of leather for manufacture, sufficient to make, he informed me, 350.000 pair of shoes. The leather was obtained in N. Ala. & Tennessee. I have read your letter to Gen. Goldthwaite, & see the difficulties which you have to encounter, in making impressments. I have, to-day, a letter from Mr Foster, dated 9th inst of which I enclose you a copy. If he will Contract for the delivery of 1000 pair of shoes, at not exceeding $7 per pair—& lower, if possible—I would advise releasing his establishment from impressment; otherwise—we want the leather. We want upper-leather, more than Sole leather & for the Penitentiary hands. If Mr Foster declines to furnish evidence of cost, he will only aggravate the matter, & force the settlement here, where such proof will be required before payment. Dr Garland encloses me a written notice from Mr Foster—of which, I send you a copy—that if the impressment is made, he cannot furnish the shoes for the Cadets. Please guard this point, & so arrange matters, as not to interfere with the Contract for the University. I enclose letter to Secretary of War, favor of Capt. Storrs, as requested.

Very truly Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Feby 14th 1863.

Majr Wl. G. Swanson, Head-Quarters, Camp Watts

Sir Your letter of the 12th, was received by the Mail of yesterday. The Regiment or Legion being raised by Col. Clanton, is under authority of the War Department, & for Confederate service. The troops are not mustered-in for State-service, & I have no control over them. On my application, the Secretary of War directed that Col. Clanton might muster-in Conscripts from Pike, Barbour, Henry, Dale, Coffee & Covington. Capt. M.c Whorter has received no orders from me, & I presume, is raising a Company, for Col. Clanton's Command. I have no authority to interfere. Gen. Buckner proposes to furnish Col. Clanton with a battery of 4 guns, & I suppose, it is to man these guns, that Capt. M.c Whorter is raising his men, but I am not advised as to how or where he is doing it. I think your Officers should go on with the enrollments in the So. Eastern Counties, hold the men for Col. Clanton's Command - all who do not volunteer to join him at once. His Command is to occupy West Florida, & protect the Coast against invasion. As to Maj. Amaine's Battalion, I am not able to explain its Exact position. My information leads me to believe, that it was raised, originally, for the Army in Mississippi, but, through the arrangement of Gen. Buckner, has been turned over to Col. Clanton. I issued 300 rifles, to the Battalion, a few days since, on application of Col. Clanton, who informed me that the Battalion had been ordered to report to him. He went down to Greenville, yesterday, to muster them into service. I suppose the proceedings are all regular - & under proper authority.

Respectfully, Your obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 14th, 1863.

Gen. D. C. Greer, Dr. Mr. Gen. Mobile.

Sir, Yours, of 11th inst; is received. Ship the 6 barrels, for Capt. Nelson Tennell to some house at Montevallo, where he will send for it, on arrival. Have me notified when it leaves Selma, so that I can telegraph Capt. T. at Decatur. Pay all charges to Montevallo, and add them to the cost - reported by you, of $6.50½ per bushel, & report a/c of cost & charges to me, & I will remit the same to your department.

Ship, to Mr F. B. Kyle, Salt-agent at Gadsden, Cherokee Co. 60 Barrels. Forward invoice, & charges, & direct him to sell, at cost & charges, & send to the 4 Counties of Calhoun, St. Clair, Cherokee, & DeKalb, 40 of them; & to forward 20 of them to Gen. S. K. Rayburn, Agent at Guntersville, for Blount & Marshall, to be sold at cost, & charges. Rayburn will report to Kyle, & Kyle will report to you

Ship To Hons. T.c Morgan. at Montevallo. Distribute balance, - Say 232 bbls, under general orders.

Resp'y Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

and to here.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Feb. 14th 1863.

Hon. Enoch Aldridge, Brookville, Ala.

Dear Sir; I am, to day, in rec't of your letter of the 11th inst.; Regret to hear that no salt had yet reached your County. Before leaving North Alabama, I heard that Gen. Rayburn had rec.d two Car-loads - of 300 bushels each, for the Counties of Blount and Marshall. I hope, by this time, it has reached your County. I wrote Gen. D. C. Greer, Dr. M.r Gen. of Alabama, at Mobile, to-day to Ship, immediately, 60 Bbls Louis.a Rock Salt to Mr Kyle, Salt-agent at Gadsden, with instructions to him to distribute 40 barrels to the counties of Calhoun, St. Clair, Cherokee, & DeKalb, & to forward 20 barrels to Gen.l Rayburn, for the counties of Blount & Marshall. There will be 10 barrels for each County, more than the number of Bbls you asked for. I hope you will get Gen. Rayburn to order the salt for your County, to be delivered to you, for sale & distribution, at costs & charges, & that it may reach Gadsden, at an early day. Accept my thanks for the assurances you have given my fellow-citizens, in Blount, that I was doing my best, to have them supplied with salt. This is, every word true. Could I have gone, & moved on the Rail Road lines, in person, I might have had more accomplished. But, with the unusual burdens, & variety of responsible duties, imposed upon the Executive, calling for constant & daily attention, here, this was, simply, impossible. You know, I recommended to the Legislature to put this matter of salt-supply in the hands of some one competent person, who could give it all his time & energies - but it was not done. I will not relax my efforts, however, & shall continue to do all in my power to furnish the people with salt. Truly, Yr.s, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 16th 1863.

Col. Wm Seawell. Grunville, Ala.

Sir, I avail myself of the first opportunity to reply to your letter of the 10th inst. The impressment-law-like a Jay-law, cannot be enforced with perfect equality. The State-agents in your County & others, protested vehemently, against the exemption I gave you, & I conceived it my duty to withdraw it. These complaints & controversies are of daily occurrence, & give me great difficulty. It is impossible for me to determine, with the same correctness, the propriety of assessments in the various counties, as the Impressment-agents can, who are on the spot, & know the people of their respective Counties. Besides, I must not, unwillingly, disturb their action- or disorganization will follow.

Resp'y, Yr obt Sert. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery Ala. Feb. 16th, 1863.

Col. James E. Saunders, Courtland, Ala.

Sir, I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of 2d inst. It was a source of profound regret that I could not visit Courtland, Luscumbia & Florence during my stay in N. Ala. When I left the Capital, it was my purpose to visit all these localities, but, on arrival at Decatur, I found it impracticable to do so, & return to my duties here, within the time I could be absent. I have been home, now, one week, & with all my might, I have been unable to catch-up with the heavy correspondence on file.

I enclose you a copy of my Proclamation of December, recommending the organization of State-guards for Local defense. As the Legislature, unfortunately, adjourned, without any amendment of our Militia organization, I believed something might be done by this plan. If the Enemy make no invasion upon the State the inconvenience will be trifling; while, on the other hand, if we should be again subjected to his hateful presence, the Home-Guards will be the only available means left us to annoy & check his robberies & depredations. I authorized Capt. Pennell to organize another Company, & directed Col. Arthur G. Beard of Marshall (my Aid-de-Camp) to visit all the Counties in the Valley of the Tennessee, & urge the people to form Companies, Battalions, & Regiments, if enough men could be obtained. I should be happy to have your valuable approval, & co-operation in this movement; and the aid of Mr Foster, whose services I should be glad to obtain, in the event a Regiment can be raised in the Counties contiguous to Lawrence. If only a Battalion is organized, then Capt. Pennell will expect the appointment of Major, on account of past services. Col. Chadick, of Huntsville will expect a field appointment to any Battalion or Regiment raised above you. But if two Regiments can be raised, I can easily assign a command to Mr Foster, & will be pleased to do so. I hope, when you see Capt. Pennell, Col. Beard & Col. Chadick, & Col. Nick Davis, that you will ask them to exhibit to you my letters of instruction, so that you will fully understand the entire programme.

After leaving Huntsville, I visited the army at Tullahoma, & was much gratified at the condition of affairs, & am very hopeful that the army will be able to hold its position. Upon the whole, the prospect ahead of us is cheering. We are growing stronger every day, & the enemy is growing weaker. I need not particularize. I believe the God of Providence is with us, & that, in his own good time, he will give us the Victory.

With high, personal esteem, I am, resp'y, Yr obt Sert,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department, Montg'y Ala. Feb 16th 63.

Hon James A. Seddon, Sec'y War, Richd Va. Sir, I respectfully, ask your consideration of the enclosed application of Mrs Sarah Bryan, for the exemption of her son, Joseph M. Bryan, who had previously obtained a substitute, & is now called upon for military service. As the age of the substitute is not mentioned, it may be reasonably, apprehended that the substitute is, now, liable to duty, & that, in consequence, Mr Bryan is liable to duty. But I would, especially, call your attention to the afflicted condition of Mrs. Bryan's family, & the peculiar hardships of her situation, if her son is taken into service.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Sert,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 16th, 1863.

Gen: D. C. Green, Sr. Mr. Gen. Mobile.

Sir; In the multiplicity of Work, I had overlooked your letter to me of Jan. 21st, which came to hand during my visit to N. Ala. I thank you for your suggestions about Salt distribution. They are heartily approved & indorsed. I wish it were so that I could put the whole matter of Salt-distribution, in N. Ala. from Va. under your control, also. But I don't see how it can be done, under these circumstances. The truth is, the Legislature made a great blunder, in not appointing a Commissioner for the State, with full powers to manage for the Salt supply, for the whole State. From my interview with Col. Bradford, I made a mistake, as to the probable cost of the Louisiana Salt, delivered in Alabama. I will send you copy of his report made to me. To the charges, already reported, you can add other items not before enumerated by you - if any - & try & get back cost & charges. I ordered 60 Bbls to Gadsden, for the N. E. Counties, because they are suffering badly, & their supply is coming in very slowly from Virginia. I wish you would also send 10 Bbls to Gen. J. G. S. Stuey, for Talladega Co, if you have not shipped it all, & can do so conveniently. I understand Mr McGehee is still behind with deliveries, to complete his engagements for Commissary-Stores and labor. This will account for his continued Shipments. He is now short of Workmen, & much perplexed in his efforts to obtain an additional supply. I expect him up shortly, & will confer fully, on all matters touching the State Salt-works. The prospect there, is not satisfactory, & I hope to be able to improve matters.

Resp'ly, Yr obt Serv't (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 16th, 1863.

Col. L. C. Garland, Sup.t & Comm.r Corps of Cadets, Univ. Ala.

Sir; I have been informed that some apprehension exists, in relation to the Conscription of members of the Ala. Corps of Cadets. Upon this matter, I desire to inform you, that Cadets in the Military Academies of the States, are not being enrolled, so far as my information extends, & I do not suppose that the Secretary of War will direct their enrollment. I do not know the nature of these organizations in other States; but the Corps of Cadets, at the University of Alabama, is an organized Military body, subject to the command of the Executive at any moment, & the most efficient, in its equipments & drill, of any other in the State; & it is an organization, which, it my purpose to preserve, in its integrity, for the use of the State. You have been, heretofore, notified that the State would not permit the enrolling officers of the Confederate States to take them from their post. This order I hereby, renew, & command that the same be enforced, if it should be found necessary, by your Military Power. This result, however, I am persuaded, will be wholly unnecessary. Should any assumption of powers of enrollment by Conscript officers, be notified to you, please communicate the same to this Department, to be, by me, reported to the Secretary of War. If, hereafter, the exigences of the public service should induce me to agree that any of the Corps may enter the Confederate service, I will make such arrangements, as shall secure them the right of Volunteering into organizations of their own choice. They shall not be Conscripted. You will read this official letter to the Corps.

Resp'ly, Yr Obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 17th 1863.

Hon. Jno J. Heflin, Talladega; Sir: Your interesting letters of the 28th & 30th Ult. came to hand during my absence, on a visit to N. Ala, & the army in Tennessee. I thank you for the information contained in your letters, & for the patriotic determination expressed, to uphold & enforce the laws, with fidelity, within your jurisdiction. This purpose, on your part, the State had every assurance, would be accomplished, relying for its conviction, on that high sense of official duty & that warm devotion to the Country, which have characterised you, in the past. I will sustain & uphold the Bench, in its noble & necessary work, by all the means, moral & physical at my command. The Confederate States' district attorney is now absent from the State, on a visit to S. Caro. I will endeavour to notify him of your suggestion, & extend your invitation to him to attend your Court, in Randolph Co. & will write Gen. Buckner, to allow the Cavalry Companies to remain, as you request. Resp'y, & truly, Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 17th 1863.

Gen^l Duff & Green; Qr. Mr. Gen. of Ala. Mobile; The Hon. R. A. Slough, Mayor of the City of Mobile, having reported that under the act of the Legislature of the State of Alabama entitled "an act to enroll the Creoles of Mobile," a Company of said Creoles has been formed & organized, & asked that they be furnished by the State with arms, &c. You will fill the requisition of His Hon. the Mayor, for arms & accoutrements to such extent as is consistent with prior demands & requisitions. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. Feb 17th 1863.

Hon. R. A. Slough, Mayor of the City of Mobile; Sir: Your letter of 13th Inst; has remained thus long unanswered, in consequence of my absence in N. Ala. & the press of public business since my return; I have now the pleasure to forward an order, on the Quarter-Mr. Gen. to fill your requisition for arms, &c. for the Company of Creoles of Mobile. Very Resp^y, Yr obt Serv^t (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 17th 1863.

Hon. Wylie M. Mason, Tuskegee, Ala. Dear Sir; I enclose you, herein, a copy of a letter, just received from Mess^rs Stewart, Buchanan, & Co. of Saltville, Va. Until I hear from you in explanation of the charges made, I am at a loss how to reply to their letter. Your early attention is invited to this communication.

Respectfully, Your obt Serv^t (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 17th, 1863.

Hon. James P. Boyce, Greenville, S. C.; Sir, Your esteemed favor of the 11th inst. is received, with the printed documents mentioned in your letter, for which accept my thanks. The action taken by the Alabama Legislature, upon the guarantee of the Confederate Debt, was initiative, merely. The General assembly, when it again convenes, will doubtless, concur in whatever plan promises to be the most acceptable to the States, & to secure harmonious co-operation.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Serv^t (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. Feb. 17th 1863.

His Excell'y M. L. Bonham, Gov^r of South Carolina. Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Communication of the 9th inst. enclosing a Copy of "An Act to provide for a guarantee, by the State, of the Bonds of the Confederate States," passed by the Legislature of South Carolina, together with a copy of the "Resolutions" adopted by the Gen^l Assembly. The Legislature of this State are not now in Session. When again convened, I will communicate, for their consideration, the action of the General Assembly of So. Carolina, on the important matter involved. I am, Sir, very resp'y, Yr obt Serv^t.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery Ala. Feby 25th 1863.

His Exc'y Z. B. Vance, Gov^r of N. Carolina, Raleigh; Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 13th inst; & to assure you, that, well-appreciating the tried loyalty of the people, & of the Legislature of the patriotic State of North Carolina, the slanderous reports alluded to in the Resolutions abated no part of the confidence of the people, or of the Executive of Alabama, in her loyalty to the Common cause.

Assuring you of the determination of Alabama to stand or fall with her Sister States, in this struggle for Constitutional rights & independence,

I remain

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department
Montgomery Ala. Feb 25th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secy of War, Richmond.

Sir, I respectfully refer to your consideration, the enclosed application of Mrs Margaret Patterson, for the discharge of her son-Corporal Samuel Patterson, Co. B. 13th Ala. Vol. Regt, who enlisted, under the age of eighteen years, without her consent.

Very Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 26th 1863

Col. L. C. Garland, Comm't, U. Univ. Ala.

Dear Sir, Yours of 17th, & one enclosing the application of certain Cadets for acceptance of resignation, found me too unwell for attention to business, & to-day I have made my first visit to the Capitol for more than a week. While it may be expedient & allowable to accept these tenders of resignation, I cannot approve the action of these Young gentlemen, evidencing, as it does, a restlessness - & an unsettled purpose, which, though natural to Youth, is incompatible with the attainment of a complete Education - with the true Spirit of Military discipline - & with the prospect of success, in any of the high aims of Life. Whatever may have been the present impelling motive to this course, all the inducements which can now offer, should have been considered at the outset, and were, no doubt, presented to the minds of the Cadets. If any new emergency had arisen, I could, readily have excused - or palliated the departure from the strict line of subordination, in view of new inducements presenting themselves to the young & undisciplined mind. But such is not the case, nor do the authorities of the Confederacy ask this sacrifice at their hands. And while this Spirit of impatience may be natural at their time of life, the very object of their education, & of the Military discipline to which they are subjected, is so to guide & train, as to make it subservient to energy - & conducive to high attainment. While not approving - as you will see by my endorsement - I have allowed the resignations to be tendered, I have accepted them, upon conditions which I deem essential; & also, conducive to their welfare & interests. To turn them adrift - as it were - from the University, without definite aim, as to their future course, would be injurious to them, & probably, to the prospects of the entire Corps. I hope that now may be able to conduct this matter to a successful issue, without further injury to the University, & that, Eventually, your energetic & prudent course may be advantageous to its reputation & success.

Very resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Gov's answer to the application of Cadets, above alluded to.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 26th, 1863.

The within application, - though the action is not approved by the Governor, as the exigencies of the Confederacy & the necessity for the services of these Cadets were as urgent, at the time of their application for admission in to the University as they are now, Yet it is allowed, upon condition that the Cadets shall respectively, nominate the Corps, Company, & Regiment into which they propose to enter; & give their pledge of honor that they will immediately, or within a reasonable time, attach themselves to such Corps or Company; & that the written Consent of the parent or Guardian is, previously obtained, & filed with the Commandant of the Corps.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov & Comm in Chief

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala, Feb 27th, 1863

Hon: Jas. A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond; Sir, Early in December last a Court Martial was held, in the case of Col F. W. Hunter, 2 Alabama Cavalry, the proceedings of which were transmitted to Richd but the decision has not yet been announced. Col Hunter is, of course, anxious to know the result, & I trust it may be in your power to relieve his anxiety at an early day. Very Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery Ala. Feb 26th 1863

Gen. S. B. Buckner; Commanding, &c. Mobile. Sir, For several weeks the following officers of the 2d Ala. Cavalry, to wit; Captains J. M. Carpenter, of Greene County; Wm. Allen, Montgomery; Carter of Butler, & Earle of Calhoun; have been under arrest & are said to be at Fort Morgan, without trial. I would respectfully request that action may be taken to ensure these Gentlemen a trial, that their position may be determined, or that they may be returned to their Commands, if you are satisfied that such a course will be for the interests of the service.

Very resp'y, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 27th 1863

Col. James E. Saunders, Courtland, Ala.

Dear Sir; when in North alabama, I appointed Mr A. Speaks of Courtland, Salt-Agent for Lawrence Co; & enclosed him all needful instructions, as to the sale & distribution of the Salt, & also, a bond, for execution by him, as such Agent. To-day, I have a letter from him - under date of 20th inst, advising that his other engagements will consume all his time, & declining the appointment. The Salt Agent, at Saltville, Virginia, has advised me of shipments of Salt for your County, consigned to Mr Speakes; & as rapidly as transportation can be obtained, other supplies will go forward. It is important to have, at Courtland, an energetic & proper man to act as Agent. Please engage such an one to accept the appointment, to take charge of the Salt, & distribute it, according to the directions furnished Mr Speakes, who will turn over all the papers, & the Bond which can be written over, & altered, to suit the proper name of the Agent.

Respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 27th 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secy of War, Richmond.

Sir; I respectfully, refer to your favorable consideration, the enclosed application from Gen. Duff C. Green, Quarter Mr-Gen. of Ala. for the detail of privates Robt Elford & Jno Elford, now on detail to manufacture arms for the State of Alabama. Apart from the necessity & propriety of developing the resources - & encouraging the productions of the genius & industry of our Country, the manufacture of Cotton-Cards - by cheapening the price & enlarging the means of household industry & economy, will contribute so largely to the production of Cloth that the effect of the competition must result to the advantage of the Government, & the increased comfort & efficiency of the Soldier. With this view, I respectfully ask that the application be granted

Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala, Feb. 20th 1863.

Mrs A. G. McGehee, Prairie Home. My dear Madam; I have the honor to acknowledge rec't of your note, of the 23d inst; enclosing eighty dollars, "to be applied to the noble cause of alleviating the sufferings of our brave Alabamians - in Hospitals." As you have entrusted the disbursement of this amount to my own discretion, I have appropriated it for the benefit of the Alabama Hospitals at Rich'd Va. & shall, by the next mail, enclose the amount to Mrs A. F. Hopkins, advising her of the name of the Contributor, & with full confidence that she will apply it with useful results. I thank you, my dear Madam, for this handsome offering upon the altar of suffering humanity. I do not know whether you should be most grateful, for the Means, with which to bestow your active charities or for that compassionate & benevolent spirit, which prompts you to aid the sufferings of others. In both, God has favored you, & he will bless you - fourfold, in the due fulfilment of your errand of the Good Samaritan.

With the highest personal consideration & esteem, I have the honor to be,
Your Sincere friend. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

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M^r V.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 28th 1863.

Hon. Lewis Alexander, impressment Agent; Tuskeegee. Sir, Whereas Noah Felton of Macon County, has made oath that he was not notified of the demand, alleged to have been made upon him, for two Slaves to work upon the defenses of Mobile; & in consequence of failure to send which said Slaves, the Sheriff of said County did seize double the number of Slaves originally required of him; & it being recommended by you, that the penalty for said failure by the said Felton, be remitted: the same is, hereby, remitted, released, & you will cause two of the Slaves seized by the Sheriff of Macon Co. to returned to the said Noah Felton

(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 28th, 1863.

Mrs I. A. Kennon, Pres^t of the Bodka L. A. Society.

My dear madam, Serious indisposition, which has confined me to my room for several days, has prevented an earlier reply to your interesting letter of the 19th inst; for which accept my thanks. There are so many ways in which our noble Country women are rendering important aid to their Country's cause—all, in their own peculiar & selected mode, that I feel no little hesitation in appearing in the papers, as an advises of any other new & different organization, than those they are accustomed to, & in which they have rendered such effective service. Well directed & systematized plans & labors—in harmonious co-operation—are to be very highly commended. Existing organizations have, already accomplished much, & I am fearful of hazarding the results which might flow from a abandonment of present organizations, & the adoption of others, unless they were the voluntary Movements of the ladies themselves. Under these circumstances, I feel that it would be most graceful—as well as respectful, for me to avoid any official interposition, to control or direct the forms & administration of the Ladies' aid societies, deferring to their own wisdom & Energy for the successful accomplishment of their noble charities.

Your note referring to the shipment of a box of Hospital Stores, has been referred to Col. W. R. Pickett, A. D. C. with instructions to report to you, whether the same has been received.

With great respect, I am, Yr obt Serv^t
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter

Ind^s to here Feb 28th

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 28th, 1863.

Mar. 2^d

T. J. Hamilton, Esq^r Sec^y Mobile Supply Association.

Sir, Sickness has confined me to my room for over a week past, hence my inability to reply to your interesting letter of the 20th. I deeply regret the unfortunate condition of the City of Mobile, as to provision supplies, & would, gladly, do any thing in my power to afford relief. You suggest a total suspension of the "extortion act" passed by the Legislature. If this act should be suspended, in its operations, as to the locality of Mobile, it must, likewise, be suspended throughout the entire State. The Proviso to the 7th section, which authorises the Governor to suspend the act—in part, refers to the "articles" mentioned in the Act, & not to any locality where it may be operative. A suspension, therefore, if ordered, would be general, throughout the State. While I am free to confess that I have serious doubts, as to any practical advantages having been secured by the Act, I am, yet unable to see any injury which has resulted from it; Certainly, no such detriment as would justify me, at this time, to entirely abrogate the Law, before its influence & effect can be said to have been fairly tested. I don't see how its suspension would relieve the City of Mobile of any one of the grievances of which you complain. Speculation in Corn is prohibited by another distinct Law, which requires all sellers of Corn, other than the producer, to take out a license, & his profits are then limited to 20 per cent. I believe that this was one of the best acts passed by the Legislature. Corn fell, in this

Market the very day it passed. Speculation in the interior was checked, & if this act had not passed, my own opinion is, corn would have been $5 instead of $3.50 pr bushel, in Mobile, to-day Speculation being cut-off, the producer now sells at the price fixed by the demand & supply. There are no intermediaries to collect profits, as it passes to the Consumers. The freights will probably, be the same in any event. Large quantities of corn have been sold by planters, from $1.00 to $1.50 per bushel. Many thousand bushels have been purchased, by the State-Govt. (from) 5 cents to $1.25 during the Winter; & many thousand bushels refused, which were offered him at $1.50. As late as last week, I learn that Corn was delivered on the Rail-Road in Lowndes, at $1.50 per bushel. If your association would obtain a necessary supply of Meats & Send-out a few energetic agents, to visit the planters in the Cane-Brake Counties & the localities where good Crops were made, you could, no doubt, engage a large quantity of Corn at reasonable rates, & which could be shipped forward, as occasion may require. But if you wait for Speculators to gather it up & take it down, you will continue to be imposed-upon, by the present outrageous charges. There is much to be expected from a direct appeal to the planters, & a personal intercourse of reliable men, who can truly represent the suffering condition of the City, & that the operations are being made to supply actual & pressing wants & not for speculation. I now also, allude to the order of Genl Pemberton, prohibiting the export of corn & provisions from Mississippi. This order has, unquestionably, affected your supply, most injuriously. Genl Johnson was applied to for relief, but he declined to interfere. My own opinion is that nothing can be accomplished, in that direction, except by a direct appeal to Genl Pemberton himself, to review his action; & I have deemed it proper to address him on the subject. Enclosed, I hand you a copy of the letter which I have, to-day, written him. I don't know whether it will avail any thing but hope he may modify his order, as I have suggested. Re assuring you of my desire to assist your association, in any practicable way in my power, I am, Resply Yr obt Svt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Feby 28th 1863.

Lieut Genl John C. Pemberton, Head-Quarters, Jackson, Miss.

Sir: My attention has been drawn to the suffering condition of the City of Mobile, daily growing worse—for want of adequate supplies of provision-stuffs. There are, in that city, a larger number of helpless Women & Children—families—whose fathers & protectors are in the Confederate armies, & who are now, more-or-less, dependent upon public charities for maintenance & support. The Commissary department of the army, at that point, is also, very much difficulted in securing needful supplies for the troops. Much of all this inconvenience, it is alleged, is the result of an order which you deemed it needful to issue, preventing the export of provisions from the State of Mississippi; & I have been informed that you were, perhaps partly induced to issue the order—or to refuse its modification upon the ground that I had expressed the opinion to Genl J. E. Johnson, that there was an abundant supply of grain in Alabama. I remember, in a conversation, had with the Genl at Tullahoma, during the first week of this Month, that he enquired of me, as to the supplies of grain, raised in Ala. during the past year, & that, I endeavoured to explain to him how the drought affected the State, & to describe the sections where the supply, in consequence of the drought, was cut-off, & the portions of the State where fair crops had been realized; & I declared the opinion that there was raised, in the State, a sufficient supply for all the wants of our people, if it were properly distributed. It is proper that I should now say, that, in submitting my estimate, I did not embrace any calculations as to the probable demand for the City of Mobile, or the Army in that vicinity. Our surplus grain is scattered over the State—the far-greater portion of it, away from the lines of rail-road or river-transportation; & the City of Mobile has, for many years, been drawing very largely, of her supplies, from N. Miss. by the line of the Mobile & Ohio-R. Road. The R. Road lines, within the State of Alabama, terminating at Mobile, do not pass through much rich farming land, where there is, now, much-if any-surplus to spare, & the roads-leading to the river-landings, at this season of the

year, are almost impassable, & the planters, are, at this time, using their teams in preparing their lands for the New-Years Crop. If Mobile, therefore, be cut-off from her usual intercourse with N. & E. Miss. it follows that great suffering must ensue. Provisions have reached famine-prices, there, already, & if no relief is provided, things must grow worse. If the grain in Mississippi is imperatively required, for the subsistence of the army in that State, that might be a sufficient justification for an order prohibiting its Exportation; but if, as it is alleged & believed, there is an abundant supply, & much to spare, it would seem the prohibition against its exportation, will operate only to embarrass the wants of the citizens, & the army at Mobile. It seems to me that if you should not feel at liberty to recal the order of prohibition, altogether, you might with manifest propriety, suspend its operations, so far as Mobile is concerned, or for ninety days, so as to allow the roads to dry-off, & communication to be opened-up from the River-landings, into the interior planting districts. I have the hon to be. Sir,

Resp'f yr obt Serv't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov' of Ala.

Executive Department;

Montgomery Ala. March 2d 1863.

Col. Wm F. Samford; Dear Sir; Mr A. G. McGehee, State Salt Commissioner, was in my office, a few days since, & informed me that the Physician, at the Salt-works had forwarded, to you, a full report, as to the case of your boy, Jeffrey. None has been received at this office. I regret to hear of the loss of another one of your negroes, engaged at the defenses at Mobile. Quite a number have died, & the Legislature, at its next session, must make due provision, at its next session for their payment. I don't think that it will hesitate to do what may be right & just. This Cruel war is bearing heavily on the Country, but I rejoice in the belief that God is for, & with us, & that he will in his own good time, bring us a happy deliverance; May he speed the day!

I have just recovered from a week's sickness, and am, still, quite feeble.

Truly, Yrs, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;

Montgomery Ala. March 2d 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Comdg Dpt. Mobile

Sir; In view of the political Condition of some sections of the State in the vicinity of Talladega, I have been requested by prominent citizens of that vicinity, to ask of you, that you will allow the Cavalry Companies there to remain until after the Session of the Spring Term of the Courts of that Circuit. As those Courts may deem it proper to take some action, in reference to parties who have refused obedience to the Conscript Law, or committed offenses against the State Law, in connection therewith, if these troops are not indispensably necessary elsewhere, their being present, in readiness to enforce the execution of the Law, may be of great advantage - alike to the State & the Confederacy - & I hope you will permit them to remain

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Alabama, Mar 3d 1863.

V. Kyle, Esq. Belle Fonte, Ala, Sir; I have rec'd your letter of 24th ult. in reply to its suggestions, in relation to giving an order for Salt for your County, that the Law in relation to the distribution of Salt, requires the Salt to be divided in proportion to population, & prohibits any preference to one County, over another. The enterprize & energy of your County, in appointing agents to obtain Salt deserves & receives my warmest commendation; & I would gladly, do any thing in my power, to shew my appreciation. But I must hold myself to the observance of the Law - in its letter & in its Spirit. I trust, however, that Capt. Linn Gross will be able to forward, as fast as the motive power of the roads, & the Military necessities for their use, will permit. His last report to me speaks encouragingly.

Very Resp'y.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery Ala. March 3d 1863.

Messrs Stewart, Buchanan, & Co Saltville, Va; Gentlemen, Indisposition, which has confined me to my room, over a week, has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 12th Ult. I deeply regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen between you & the Alabama Salt-Manufacturing Co. & hope, that by this time, the same may have been satisfactorily adjusted. The parties composing the Alabama Co. are gentlemen of high respectability, & I doubt not, will be disposed to conform, in good faith, to all the stipulations of their contract. In the terms made by me with them, it was stipulated that the Company might ship whatever amount of Salt was needed for their individual use, & that they might, likewise, dispose of Salt, in exchange for supplies, & to defray expenses of their works, so far as they found it practicable to do so, & as their operations, now, are attended with heavy expenditures, I hope it may be agreeable to you, to grant them every facility in your power.

Respt, Yr obt Sert.
(Signed.) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 3d 1863

A. F. Stickney, Esq. (Mobile; Sir; I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your donation of one Thousand Dollars, to be bestowed, by me with such society as I may deem most effective in administering to the wants-either of sick & indigent Soldiers, or their families. In the name of these unfortunates-& in behalf of the State I thank you for your generous donation, & sincerely trust that it may be returned to you, in tenfold blessing, from their gratitude & prayers. Your own aid Society, presided over by Mrs Percy Walker, has been, most actively & efficiently engaged in the good works of relieving suffering & distress, & I have deemed it most appropriate to make that Society the almoner of your bounty; & I enclose copy of my letter to Mrs Walker-remitting the donation.

Respy & Gratefully, Yr obt Sert
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter

E Copy 3

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 3d 1863.

Mrs E. L. Walker, Pres. of the Mobile-Military aid Society.

Madam, I have rec'd a letter from A. F. Stickney of Mobile, of which I enclose you a copy, donating the handsome sum of one Thousand dollars to be presented, by me, to that Society or organization, within the State of Alabama, which, in my opinion, is most effective in administering to the wants, either, of sick or indigent Soldiers, or those of their families. In the discharge of this delicate-though pleasing duty, I-without intending to discriminate among the various, humane organizations, conducted by the devoted Women of Ala. I have informed Mr Stickney, that I should forward his contribution to the Mil-aid Soc'y, Mobile, as that Institution was occupying an extended field of usefulness, & I supposed that, as he was a citizen of Mobile, such disposition would be most agreeable to him. You will please find the amount, herewith Enclosed, by the hand of Mr J. P. Richardson, of Mobile.

With high Esteem, I have the hon to be, Yr obt Sert.
Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Mar 2 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineers, Mobile,

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Col. J. W. Robertson's two letters to you, under date of 26th Ult., one of which reports that a part of the raft, under construction at Choctaw Bluff, has been carried away by high Waters, and the other asking to be relieved of duty at Choctaw Bluff, both of which communications were forwarded by you, for my information. In one of Col. Robertson's letters, he expresses the opinion very decidedly, that the raft, or boom which we have been engaged in constructing at that locality,

for obstructing the Alabama River, will prove a failure, & he urges you to avail yourself of the occasion of the loss of a portion of it, to urge upon me the propriety of abandoning the work, & of substituting another plan of obstruction which he thinks will be efficient. As to these intimations of Col. Robertson, you express no opinion. Now, Gen. the question of the public defense over-rides every other consideration with me, and I am most anxious to co-operate with the Confederate Authorities, in every movement which will advance that end. The work of obstructing the rivers of the State, properly belongs to the Engineer Department of the Confederate army. That army has received all the contributions of the State, in Men & munitions of War. The duty - responsibility - now - of defending Ala. as well as all the other States, is devolved upon the Confederacy. But candor compels me to say, that the Engineer Dept. of the army, notwithstanding my earnest solicitations, has, heretofore, wholly declined to take upon itself the burden & responsibility of any works for the obstruction of our rivers; You have recently proposed to relieve the State authorities from the works on the Tombigbee river, & I have promptly accepted the proposition, & feel grateful for the responsibility, which you have thus assumed. There has never been a time when I would not, gladly, have availed myself of the services & skill of the Engineer Department, for the construction of those defensive works, & I undertook them on a State account, only because of their great importance, & the apparent indisposition of the Engineer Department - from some cause or other - to assume the responsibility of their construction. And now, if the works undertaken by the State, are, in the opinion of the Engineer department, insufficient, or likely to prove insecure; & a better & more efficient plan of obstructions can be adopted, I beg you, as the Chief of the Engineer Dept. of Ala. to give me your candid opinions & convictions, accompanied with such advice & assurances as your superior skill & judgement may determine; & I assure you, that not mere personal considerations, or pride of opinion, nor any thing else shall be in the way of a most cordial response to any effort you may deem needful for the security & protection of Ala.

Please show this letter to Maj. Gen. S.B. Buckner, & hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience. I am,

Respy. Yr. Obt. Svt.

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. March 3d, 1863

Miss Jennie Stokes, Sec'y of Relief Society, La Fayette, Ala.

In this great struggle for Liberty, nothing - unless the constant favor of God has been more gratifying or encouraging to me, than the efforts of our Ladies - guided by Almighty Power, in answer to prayer. But now, a new gratification, & encouragement, is afforded me, by the receipt of your letter, informing me that the same great Being had put it into the hearts of the Children to take their part, to the extent of their ability, in aiding to secure their Country's independence. He who said "Suffer little children to come unto me" also taught us that the Father cares for the smallest & weakest parts of His Creation, & that what we regard as small, is often, tho the greatest in His eyes. I beg you will express to the dear children of your society, the pleasure I feel, in knowing that their thoughts have been turned to such a noble Effort; & that, I trust they will be rewarded, even in this life, for their sacrifices & labors, in their country's cause. But even if they should not receive it here, entering into this undertaking, as I trust, with a pure & holy motive, it will be written in Heaven, for their sure reward. It shall be my prayer for you, that you may go on & prosper, in your noble work; that, for you, the prayer of the grateful Soldier may ever ascend; that your lives may be a Blessing to yourselves, & [illegible]

try, & the noble aims, to which you are now tending, may but lead you to higher & holier walks, continually - Trained & educated in the love of your country & the truths of God's Holy Word, you are preparing yourselves to make, of your noble State, one far mightier, & more honored than ever in the past. I regret that the State has not now, the material suitable & appropriate to your objects, whenever any such is obtained, it will afford me the highest pleasure to furnish it to you, & to see the Work executed by your industrious hands. Wishing you all success, & that you may, speedily, welcome back - Safe from Cruel war, Your fathers, brothers & friends, I am, most sincerely, your gratified friend & fellowcitizen,

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

P.S. The Hospital Stores may be forwarded to Col. W. H. Pickett, A. Q. M. Montgomery, the State will pay the Expense of Transportation. J. G. S.

Executive Department;

(alluded to. letter to Saunders, page 32). Decatur, Ala, Jany 2) th 1863.

Mr Standsford Speaks, Courtland, Ala. Sir, I, hereby, tender to you, & respectfully, request your acceptance of, an appointment of State-agent for the Sale, & distribution of Salt in, & for the County of Lawrence. You will be allowed five per ct commissions on the amount of moneys rec^d & paid over, Provided, the same does not exceed $. 1500, in the aggregate, per annum. I enclose a blank bond for you to fill-up & date, & execute, with your sureties. On the back of the bond is endorsed a certificate, to be signed, officially, by the Judge of Probate. If you accept the appointment — as I hope you may — I have to request you to execute the Bond, & enclose it — without delay — to my address, at the Capitol at Montgomery. For a full understanding of your duties, I hand you for Examination, copies of the Salt-acts passed by the Legislature, at its last Session; & also, copies of Circular letters addressed to the Quarter Master Gen^l of the State, at Mobile, & to the various Probate Judges. Capt. J. C. H. Speed, of Perry Co. is State-agent at Salt-ville Virginia, whom you can address at that place. Capt. Alex Snodgrass, of Cherokee County, is State-agent for transportation on the Rail-Road Routes, & may be addressed at Bristol, Tenn. I regret that I shall not be able to go farther down the Valley, on account of a want of rapid transportation, & the necessity, imposed by official duty, of an early return to the Capitol. Should you desire further information, address me at Montgomery.

Resp'y, Yr obt Ser't.

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. March 4th 1863.

Hon. L. Gibbons, Claiborne, Ala: Dear Sir: An attack of sickness, which had incapacitated me for office work, some ten days, has prevented an earlier reply to your interesting letter of the 15th Ult. I duly appreciate the Spirit which induced you to write me, and am thankful for any advices or assistance, which may enable me to better, guard & protect the public interest. And I hope, Judge, you will continue, in frankness, to write, whenever you think you can aid me, in the discharge of my laborious & responsible duties. Sensible of the necessity, for making due provision of food & medical attention for the negroes ordered to the construction of our public Works, I took especial pains to impress, upon the Confederate authorities, this important duty. To this end, I offered to assist in making advances of money, if required, for the purchase of supplies, & to have purchases made by State-agents, which have been accomplished, in considerable quantities. The assurances given me were deemed satisfactory, but the results have not been, altogether as good as I had hoped for. Complaints were sent in to me, by the owners & overseers of the Slaves at Mobile, & as early as the middle of January, I wrote Gen. Buckner, freely, on the subject, meeting the matter in a most commendable Spirit, he directed a thorough Examination to be made into the condition of the Slaves at Mobile — as to their subsistence, quarters, hospital-accommodations. &c, & I herewith enclose, for your examination, copies of the various reports, which were submitted to him, & which he forwarded to me. Since the date of this report, I have been furnished

with a weekly report of the Hospital in Mobile, & matters have much improved. Before ordering any working force to Choctaw & Oven Bluffs, I had lumber procured & shipped, & shantics constructed for the Negroes; and was promised that all needful supplies of subsistence, & Hospital- & Medical attention should be duly furnished. Ex-Gov. Moore was detailed to take up quarters at Choctaw Bluff, & give a General superintendence of the whole force, with full powers to remedy by proper provision, any deficiencies in the management of the Negroes, which might occur. He reported one trip to Mobile, for the purchase of Medicines; & my information, direct from Gentlemen who have visited the River Works, is, that Gov Moore has been unremitting in his attention, & efforts to have the Negroes duly provided for. Week before last, so many complaints reached me, that I persuaded Judge Goldthwaite — Adj. Gen. of the State, under the ordinance of the Convention to make a tour of inspection to Mobile & to the river batteries. He returned last week, & reported the Condition of the negroes, as to subsistence, quarters, & Medical supplies, as more satisfactory than I feared they were. There have been — & may yet be — grounds for just complaints, but I am satisfied the complaints have been, more or less, exaggerated. Our people are more sensitive about the fare & treatment of their slaves, than the endurance, & treatment of our Soldiers. I feel the full force of the public obligation, to take care of the property of the citizen, & have endeavoured to do so, by every practicable plan. Owners of slaves are not without blame in some instances; for some have sent disabled negroes — some have sent their slaves without sufficient clothing, &, on this account have subjected them to greater privations & to sickness. In some instances it has been impossible to obtain the services of reliable overseers, to look after the different squads, &, in fact the whole subject has been attended with difficulties & embarrassments, which are unknown outside of this Office.

I enclose you, also, copies of Correspondence had with Doct Ross Medical Director at Mobile, as far back as November last. In addition to medicines purchased by Gov Moore at Mobile, we have sent Supplies from here, and I have been endeavouring to procure the services of a reliable & skillful physician, to go down to the river-Works, & will send one there, so soon as I can find a proper man. The most recent reports from there, represent the health of the Negroes very much improved. I assure you that I will do every thing in my power to remedy the difficulties & complaints mentioned, & will, I repeat, be thankful for any assistance you may be able to render me.

Very truly, Yours,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 3d 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Headquarters, Mobile.

Sir, I learn from Gen. Duff C. Green, the State Q. M. Gen. at Mobile, that the Engineer Department at that point, is under the impression, that the labor furnished by the State at Choctaw & Oven Bluffs — prior to October last, was applied to the defenses, under the control & direction of the State, & acting upon that impression, declined, in this class of labor, to pay the hire. The first requisition — which was made in the Spring of 1862 — was, if I remember correctly — furnished voluntarily; & so far as I can learn, the owners of the slaves have not insisted & do not insist on compensation.

The second requisition was made on the 5th of July last, by Capt Chas J. Lierrur — then acting as the chief Engineer of Gen Forney — & by his order. I enclose you a copy of the dispatch, making the requisition, under which the labor was promptly supplied. On the 13th Sept last, another requisition was made by Capt Lierrur, a copy of which also — as enclosed, was promptly met. All the labor furnished under these requisitions, was employed in the construction of the batteries at Choctaw & Oven Bluffs — the works having been projected & carried out, by the order of Gen. Forney; the State, while regarding it as a matter of duty to co-operate with the Confederate authorities, in furnishing the labor, never supposed — & certainly, had no grounds to suppose that the hire, which was expressly agreed on, (as you will see by the dispatches of Capt L. would not be paid by the Confederate authorities. Neither

myself, nor, indeed, any other officer of the State, is authorized to make these payments, no fund having been appropriated, which can, properly, be applied to this purpose. Under these circumstances, it is hoped, that the necessary provision for the payment of these claims, will, at once, be made. Gen. Green will receive a receipt for the same, & the State will assume the responsibility & trouble of disbursing it. I would, also, beg leave to call your attention to the fact, that the implements — Spades, shovels, &c, sent with the Slaves, have been retained for the use of the Engineer Department. Do not understand me, as complaining of this; far from it! Under the circumstances, I see no other course which could be adopted; but there can be no good reason assigned, for not making compensation to the owners. It may be a small matter for the State to insist on, but the necessity of these implements, for plantation use, & the absolute impossibility of procuring them, at almost any price, has given an additional value to them, in the eye of the planter; & scarcely a day passes, without complaints, which are exceedingly difficult to answer. It, of course, would be impossible to return them to their respective owners; & all that could, reasonably be expected is, that a fair average value be allowed, which, I think would give satisfaction in a majority of cases.

In relation to the Wagons — which have been — I will be retained — after the discharge of the Teams, unless some course is adopted, which will secure their identification, it is next to an impossibility that justice can be done their owners. A good Wagon cannot now be purchased for less than from four hundred to five hundred dolls, & extremely difficult to be obtained, at even — these prices; while an old or inferior article is not worth one fourth of the money. In some cases, the wagons have been changed, & the owners, who sent a good or new one, had found, in its place, an old — inferior — or worn — out wagon. I suppose, that this could be easily remedied by marking & painting the name or initials of the owner, with the name of the County, on each Wagon retained after the Team is discharged. By pursuing this course, there would be no difficulty. I enclose you a circular, which I have forwarded to our impressment agents, in relation to providing subsistence for the Slaves which now are at Mobile, as well as those which are going thither under the last requisition. I should have much preferred to have bought the amount of bacon, required for their subsistence, but it could not be purchased, at least — not in time to meet the exigency, & I saw no other course than the one I have adopted. I would beg leave to call your particular attention to the clauses of the Circular in Brackets, & to request that you will have them strictly executed. The owners have received my personal assurances, that the meat sent forward by them, at my solicitation, to subsist their Slaves, should be applied solely, to the support of those, whose owners have forwarded it. The failure to do this would subject me to the imputation of bad faith, & cause much dissatisfaction. The Slaves which have been raised under the last requisition, were impressed — for a term, not longer than sixty days after their arrival at Mobile — over, or Choctaw Bluffs; & the owners were assured in the orders given by me to the Agents, that, under no contingency, would this pledge be violated. Without giving this assurance it is questionable if, at this season of the year, the labor could have been supplied. The Agents — whose duties are not only onerous & responsible, but disagreeable & thankless, would have resigned, leaving me without any adequate means of procuring the Slaves. Under any — and all circumstances, therefore, I must insist, that the negroes, under the last requisition, be not detained for a period longer than I have specified. I earnestly hope that sixty days will find Mobile impregnable, & the works at the other points fully completed; but if not, I can if apprized, in time, have other Laborers ready to supply their place. In this connection, I have also to ask the discharge of all the Slaves — teams & drivers, which arrived at Mobile, any time prior to December, discharging those first, who have been the longest in the Service. Trusting that you will take the necessary steps to carry out the views I have expressed; and assuring you of my readiness, cheerfully, to co-operate, to the fullest extent of my official power & personal influence, in aiding you, in the defense of that portion of the State assigned to your Command, I am, very respy, Yr obt Servt (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

For two Dispatches, in this connection, see following page.

336 Copy 3

Mobile, July 5th, 1862.

To His Excy Jno Gill Shorter, Montgomery Ala.

The works at Choctaw & Oven Bluffs, require one hundred & fifty hands, to finish the Soddage, & drainage: for these, this Department will pay seventy five cents a day. They must be had.

Genl Forney desires your concurrence & assistance in having them, immediately procured & forwarded to those points. Please answer immediately.

(signed) Chas D. Lieurur, Chf of Engineers.

Copy 3

Mobile, Sept 13th, 1863

To his Excellency, Jno Gill Shorter, Montgomery, Ala.

I accept, with pleasure, your offer to furnish labor for Choctaw & Oven Bluffs. Send, immediately, two hundred hand, each with Spade or shovel, bedding & spare clothes- one hundred to Each river. For every twenty five or thirty- send one respectable White man. not to oversee them- but to keep them from running-away, to provide for their comfort; to see that their food is properly cooked, & in sufficient quantities. The Negroes will be paid seventy five cents per day- the white men two dollars. Provisions- Shelter, & Medical treatment to be furnished by me: The force, which will be rec'd by Military Engineers at the Bluffs, & put to worke, I shall be pleased to see soon.

(signed) Chas D. Lieurur.

Executive Department:

Montgomery, Ala. March 6th, 1863.

Jno W. Franklin, Esq: Lebanon, Ala. Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of 25th Ultimo, stating that the Sheriff- Elect of DeKalb Co. would not be able to take the office by reason of his being in the Confederate Service; & requesting me to appoint Mr Jno B. Belcher, to fill the Vacancy. The Constitution, Art. 4th, Sect 24, provides, that if a vacancy occur in the office of Sheriff- subsequent to an election, it shall be filled by the Governor. Section 125 of the Code, requires the Bond of the Sheriff to be filed- in the office of the Probate- Judge, within fifteen days after the Election- or the party- elect vacates the Office," & in such cases, it is the duty of the officer, in whose office such Bond is required to be filed, at once to certify such failure to the appointing power, & the vacancy must be filled, as in the other cases."

Until the Executive is notified by the Judge of Probate, that a vacancy exists in the office, he has no power to make the appointment.

Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

As soon as the Probate Judge declares the office vacant the Coroner, by Section 805- of the Code, acts as Sheriff, until a Sheriff is qualified.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala 7th 1863. (March)

Brig Gen. Rains
Richmond, Virginia

Sir,

Gen Leadbetter highly approves of your Shell, & has applied for a number, for the defense of Mobile, but the demand for the supply of Charleston & Savannah retards their delivery.

Will you do me the favor to endeavor to obtain from Head-Quarters, an order forwarding as many as practicable, to Mobile, at the Earliest Moment.

Resp'y
Your Obt Serv't,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala

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Mar. 9th

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. March 7th 1863

Hon. J. W. Sykes, Courtland, Ala. Dear Sir, I have recently been informed that a Citizen of Lawrence County, who visited me at the Capitol, some months ago, in relation to the supply of Salt for that County, had reported that, in my interview with him, I asked him "why the people did not get Salt from their Yankee friends, whilst they were there." I do not remember the name of the gentleman. Owing to the severe pressure of business in my office, my interview with him was very brief in which I endeavoured to explain to him, the Salt contracts which I made in Virginia, for the benefit of North Alabama. It is probable, that I enquired if any Salt had been brought to North Alabama, during its occupation, by the Enemy, for I felt concerned on the question of supply — but he, wholly, misapprended my view or purpose if he supposed that, by any thing I may have said, I intended to reprove the people of Lawrence for not trading with the Yankees, or to intimate that they were friendly to the Yankees, or that the Yankees were their friends. I never entertained any such opinion. Nor did I ever say to the Citizen of Lawrence, or to any body else, at any time or place, any thing which, by fair & just interpretation, could be tortured into such charges or insinuations.

For my vindication, I appeal to the official message which I submitted to the Legislature, at the opening of its Extra Session, in which I referred to the Raid of the Enemy into North-Alabama, & the fidelity Loyalty of her Citizens. I regret that any disappointment, occasioned the Citizens of Lawrence, for want of a timely supply of Salt, which it was not in my power to provide, should have betrayed him into such a temper of mind, or so affected his memory, as to put words into my mouth, which imply insinuations, I never made or entertained. Had he known me well, he would have avoided the mistake into which he was betrayed. It is due to me that this protestation, against his erroneous Statement, should be made known to any one of my fellow Citizens, in your County, who may have heard his report of our conversation; and I hope you will pardon the privilege I have assumed, in writing to you thus freely, & requesting you to use this letter to correct an erroneous impression, calculated to do me injustice among the citizens of your County.

With Great respect, I am
Your obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Alabama, March 9th 1863.

Mrs J. W. Brunson, Miss A. M. Black, Society Hill, Ala. Ladies; I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt, "by Express," of your note of the 5th inst. enclosing me $257.00 being the proceeds of a series of Tableaux, in your Village, gotten up by the young ladies. You request me to give it to one of the Hospitals, for the benefit of our sick & wounded Soldiers. In accordance with your instructions, I have, this day, remitted the amount to the Alabama Hospitals at Richmond, to the care of Mrs A. F. Hopkins. The suffering Soldier will bless you, ladies, for your warm Sympathies, & generous contributions, & God will bless you, in your noble charities. May He interpose his own omnipotent arm between us and our cruel & unrelenting foes, & hasten on the day of our deliverance & liberty!

With Great respect, I have the honor to be
Your Obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. March 9th 1863

Mrs A. F. Hopkins, Richmond, Virginia. My dear Madam; Enclosed, I beg to hand you $.26 - contributed by the Ladies of Society-Hill, Macon Co. Ala, - being proceeds of a series of Tableaux — which I have been requested, through the accompanying letter, to give to one of the Hospitals, for the benefit of our sick and wounded Soldiers.

With my best wishes for your continued health & usefulness, I am,

Most Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Feby 25th 1863.

Peter Hamilton, Esq., Mobile, Sir, Gen. Goldthwaite arrived from Mobile to-day, and advised me that Gen. Pemberton justifies his order for prohibition of exports of provision supplies, from Mississippi, upon the ground that I have expressed the opinion to Genl Johnston, that there was an abundant supply in this State. This announcement has occasioned me no little regret, & some degree of surprise. The question of Military Supplies for Mobile has not been the subject of any conference or discussion between Gen. Johnston & myself, at any time or place. During the first week of this month, I had the pleasure of meeting the General at Tullahoma; & in our conversation, the quantity of grain raised in Alabama during the past year, was spoken of. He made enquiry on the subject, and, in reply, I described, as well as I could, the extent of the drought, which cut off the crops in portions of the State; and mentioned the sections where good corn crops had been made; and, speaking in general terms, I expressed the opinion that, if duly distributed, there was an abundant supply for all the wants of our people. I did not speak of supplies for our armies; for my particular attention was not directed to that point. Nor did I dream of the idea, that what I was saying would affect, in the slightest degree, the question of supply for the Army & the citizens of Mobile. Cut-off as is Mobile - from the interior of the State, & wholly dependent, as is that City for grain - upon her river & rail-road communications, the long transportation & enormous freights bring her supplies at most onerous charges. And she should, by every consideration of justice, be allowed to ship - from any and every point - in or out of the State, from which she can draw them. Her railroads - from the City, within the limits of Alabama, do not pass through the sections, where there is any surplus, and, at this season of the year, the roads connecting with the River-landings, are scarcely passable for freight to any considerable extent. And the planters are busy with their teams on their farms, preparing their lands for the new crop. I protest that this opinion accompanied with the explanations herein contained, (while I believe it to be true, that we have - scattered - over the State, sufficient subsistence to carry us through to another crop) cannot furnish a justification of the, seemingly harsh order which Gen. Pemberton has felt it his duty to promulgate. Admiring the patriotic zeal of this distinguished officer, I acquit him fully - of all purpose to do more than provide - what he considers to be adequate supplies for his own Army; but, at the same time, I have reason to believe, that, on reviewing this question - aided by the suggestions herein made, he cannot refuse to modify an order, which has, already entailed suffering upon the citizens of Mobile, & greatly embarrassed - as I am credibly informed, even the Commissary department of our army in that Vicinity.

I beg you to submit this letter - or a copy of it, to Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, and you are authorized to make such other - & further use of it, as, in your judgement, may be of any service or benefit to the city.

Resp'y, Yr obt Servt.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 9th 1863.

N. I. Requier, Esq.) Mobile, Sir, I herewith enclose a letter from Mr Jos. Dill of Huntsville, which explains itself. I herewith, enclose you all the papers on file in this office, relative to Mr Sheats. I have sent to Mr Dill, a list of the names of the Witnesses. Resp'y, Yr obt Servt. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department, Montgomery, Mar 9th 1863

Isaiah Dill, Esq: Huntsville, Ala. Sir, Yours of 5th inst. has just been rec'd. I enclose you a list of the witnesses, as shown by affidavits - on file in this office. I will place the affidavits in the hands of Mr Requier. I have not time, now, to examine the question, but suggest to you to ascertain before you act, whether you, as Commissioner, have jurisdiction in the premises; or, whether there is any power, except in the Confederate Judge, to hear the Cause. Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. March 9th 1863.

Messrs Jesse D. Adams, Mayor, & other Citizens of Tuscaloosa. Gentn. A few days since, I was handed, by Hons. Robt Jemison jr, a memorial forwarded by you, praying a suspension of the "Act to prevent extortion", passed by the General Assembly, at its last Session. I was, also, furnished by Col. Jemison, with a written Memorandum, which cited particular instances, in which, in the opinion of the writer, the act referred to, operated to advance—rather than decrease prices. I regret that I have not the time to enter into a full discussion of this Law. The Legislature felt bound, by the condition of the Country, to pass some act, which, in their judgement, would check the spirit of extortion, which is doing so much harm in the land; & this was the only one, upon which they could agree. There was doubt & uncertainty as to its practical operation, & hence, a proviso was added to the last section, authorizing the Governor to suspend the operation of the act, as to all or any portion of the articles, therein set forth. You will observe that the authority is not to suspend any particular Section of the act, or its operation, in any given locality, but is limited to the articles enumerated in & embraced by the act. After the adjournment of the Legislature, & after considering the probable operation of the act, as maturely as I could, I issued a Proclamation—dated 20th December last—suspending the act absolutely, as to all articles of Merchandise, of every description, except certain enumerated articles, & caused the same to be published all over the State. Some of the points made in the Memorandum handed me by Col. Jemison, induce the belief that the writer had not seen this proclamation; for they refer to articles of Merchandize, which the Law does not touch, as modified by my proclamation—such as products of the Dairy, fruits, & many articles of Food. By the proclamation, the act is limited to the articles specified in the proclamation, & should be read, in all its Sections & provisions, with this Modification. Whether, this Modified, the Law is advantageous or not, is a question that time alone can determine. I am aware of the delicacy of interfering with—or attempting to control, by Legislative Enactment, the lawful business & pursuits of the people, and, as a general rule, it is the part of wisdom & Statesmanship, to leave them untrammelled to pursue their individual interests—free from Legislative restraints. But these are extraordinary times, and Legislative expedients, which are intended to promote the public advantage, should be allowed a fair test, before they are set aside & annulled. I enclose you, herewith, a copy of my proclamation of 20th Dec. last, and entertain the opinion, that it removes some, at least, of the objections to the Law. At present, with the information at hand, I am not prepared to go further, or suspend the entire Law. I do not think it clear that its suspension would check—or diminish prices of any of the articles left under its operation; nor am I satisfied that these prices are—or have been, in any instances, increased, by virtue of the Act. It is easy to state such propositions, but to prove them to a candid mind, would be difficult. I will, however, endeavor to watch the practical operation of the act as modified, & if I am convinced that it is prejudicial to the public welfare, I will suspend its entire provisions. With Respectful consideration, I am,

Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. March 10th 1863.

Messrs J. D. Patterson, Co., Augusta, Geo. Gentlemen, I am in receipt of yours of the 7th inst, by last mail, explaining the delay in last weeks Shipment of Treasury change-bills. According to your suggestion, I have, to-day written to the Express Co. at Augusta, to procure a larger & Strong box for future Shipments. Failures of a prompt delivery according to contract, works considerable disappointment here. A large No of Ladies are employed & organized as a working bureau, in the Capitol, & if the deliveries—weekly, on stated days, fail, they & the Treasury officers are disconcerted. I hope that such arrangements may be made as will secure prompt Shipments & deliveries in the future. This is a matter of first importance

Yr obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

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Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 10th 1863

To Mr A. E. Whitehead, Pres't So. Exp. Co. Augusta, Geo.

Dear Sir, Messrs J. J. Patterson & Co. write me that the box for transmission of our State Treasury notes is badly worn, & too small to hold the number of notes, which, by their Contract they are to deliver weekly. I telegraphed your President to-day, to please have a box made immediately, which would answer our purposes; & I hope the matter will be attended to without delay, as it is very important to the State to prevent disappointment among the large number of persons, who are employed here to prepare the change bills for circulation.

I address you this letter, as I am informed that the President & Superintendent of the Company are absent.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Mar. 10th 1863

Mr Wm Wirt, Augusta, Geo

Sir; Yours of the 7th inst is before me. I will receive propositions from you for the Lease of lands belonging to the State, for the purpose of making Potash. You will give me a description of the locality, & number of acres, and I will inform you at what price they can be leased.

Respectfully, (signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 11th 1863

Messrs J. A. Street, N. E. Napier, &, Camp Jones, near Savannah Geo.

Gent^n I am in receipt of yours of 8th inst. By reference to General Orders, N^o 72 of the War Department, dated 29th Sept. 1862. you will see that to obtain a transfer, you must obtain the written consent of your Commanding Officer, & of the General commanding the Army to which you desire to be transferred, in order to obtain a transfer to an Alabama Regiment.

You will make your application, in writing, to the officer indicted; if he refuses to sign it, get him to endorse his refusal on the paper; then send it to me, & I will make an appeal, in your behalf, to the Secretary of War.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 11th 1863

Mr Thomas A. McIver, Savannah Georgia.

Sir; In reply to yours of the 7th inst. I state that, as I am informed, of the rules of the Service, a person desiring a transfer, must obtain the written consent of his Capt. Col. or General; & the Consent of the General Commanding the Army, to which he desires to be transferred. This is sufficient without applying to the War Department.

Respectfully,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter

P. S.

I refer you to General order, N^o 72, of the War Department, dated 29th Sept 1862. If your application to the officers indicated in the Gen^l orders, is refused, have their refusal endorsed on the paper, then return it to me; and I will make a personal appeal to the Secretary of War, in your behalf.

J. G. S.

ind^s to here 11th

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Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. March 11th 1863.

Hon. W. J. May Guntersville, Ala,

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of 21th ult: & embrace the first opportunity to reply. You, now, submit a proposition for me to buy-out the furnaces of your Salt-Co. at Saltville, Va. and run them, on State account. The terms which you State-and the conditions, are such, that I do not feel at liberty, at the present time, to accept, in behalf of the State. And I will give you, briefly as I can, my reasons. On the 7th of November last, I addressed a letter to Mr Wasten P. McFarlane, at Guntersville in reply to one he wrote me, on the 28th of October, in which I said to him-"as there seems some difficulty likely to ensue in carrying-out the provisions made by the State, and those anticipated by your Contract, I now propose that your Stockholders abandon their preference under the Contract, & receive back their money from the State, upon proper showing of the amount expended by them, that the works continue under the original terms as to your compensation, & under your superintendence; & the product of the furnaces to be turned over to Leath Speed, to enter into the general Stock of the State." I enclose you, herewith, a copy of the entire letter, for your examination. In a few weeks after mailing this letter to Mr McFarlane, I rec'd a letter from you, under date of November the 20th, in which you say, "I was handed a letter, on Monday last, directed by your Excellency to W. P. McFarlane, in reply to one addressed to you by him, enclosing a copy of the resolution adopted at Gadsden, and the Contract made by him, as Salt-Agent for the Counties embraced therein. I submitted your letter to the Commissioners' Court, and, after due deliberation, declined accepting the proposition made by you, &c." As the Commissioners Court was not a party to the Contract made by your Salt-Company, I could not understand how they could either accept or decline my proposition to contract for the products of the furnaces of that Company. If the Court intended to declare its purpose to waive all rights & claim, on the part of the people of Marshall Co to their due proportion of Salt-under the Contract which I, as Executive of the State, had made for the benefit of that & other Counties in N. Ala. then the Court should have made official record of their decision, to that effect, and communicated a certified copy of the same, for my consideration and action. Your letter of 20th Nov, was not an official communication by you, as Judge of Probate; and knowing you to be one of the Stockholders in the Salt-Co. I understood-& still believe that your letter was written in that capacity. I never rec'd any reply from Mr McFarlane, to the propositions made him in my letter of 7th of Nov, until the 16th day of Dec. On that day I rec'd a letter from him by the hands of Judge Standifer, of Cherokee, under date of 13th of December, at Centre, in which letter Mr McFarlane says," I rec'd a letter, some time since, and should have answered it, but that I thought it best to defer it till I came home to the Counties that I represent. I find, since I came home, that the people are not willing to submit to your proposition, though we ought to reconcile this Matter, in some way, &c" To this letter I replied on the 17th December and wrote, among other things, as follows; "But satisfied that your Co. went into the matter, from a laudable desire to meet the wants of your people, and anxious, as I am, to increase the present supply to all N. Ala. I have, heretofore, advised you, that I would adopt the Contract made by your Co. & continue you in the agency to manufacture Salt; provided, that all the Salt is turned over to the Salt-agent at Saltville, to be distributed, in just proportion, among all the Counties, in the same way as Salt from the other Contracts is distributed. It shall be sent in, & sold for cost & charges. And the Stockholders shall have right to be furnished the amount needed for their own family-use, which arrangement, under the circumstances, will be fair & just-between them and the State. If you would come down, in person, & see me, & bring your accounts of expenditures, I think we could adjust the matter, satisfactorily, and to the interest of all concerned". I enclose you, herein, a copy of the whole of this letter to Mr McFarlane. You will observe that it was written on the 17th of December; It was sent, too, by the hands of Judge Standifer- but to this letter, I have never rec'd any reply from Mr McFarlane. Of course I could draw no other inference than that my offers were not acceptable to the Company. The Winter has now passed, & the season for saving bacon is over. My object, in proposing to relieve the Stockholders of your Company & to receive the products of their furnaces, was to increase the supply of Salt, for N. Ala. during the Winter months, so it might be available to the people in that portion of the State, in time to Salt-down their pork. But the Company declined my propositions. This they had the right to do, and I do not com-

of their action. On the contrary, I deeply regret that the obstacles to the transportation of the Salt from Virginia, were so great & continuous, & which our combined energies cd not overcome: that neither the Govt nor the State have been able to put the Salt into the State as fast as it has been manufactured at the Furnaces.

In what I have written, may be seen the reasons, why I do not, now, renew my propositions to your Company. There is another good reason why I cannot accept the proposition, now, submitted by you; & that is, that I cannot, now, make Suitable arrangements to employ Laborers, to run the furnaces, on account of the State, & Subsist them.

I shall regret, however, if your Company close up, & abandon their furnaces, and, if the Company will go on to manufacture Salt, I will contract with them, to buy their Salt at the Works, & will make, with them, the same Contract I made with the Talladega Salt-Manufacturing Co." This Contract is referred to in My letter to Mr McFarlane, of the 17th Decr, & I enclosed him, in that letter, a copy of the entire Contract. If your Co. are unwilling to make a Contract on those terms, then, I invite them to Submit me a proposition, giving the price at which they will deliver Salt, to the State agent, at Saltville, the quantity - time, &c. & if I can do so, with propriety, I may accept it: at any rate there will be no harm, in submitting a proposition.

Resp'y, Yr obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, March 12th 1863

Dr. J. F. Dortch, Camden, Ala.

My dear Sir, I thank you for your kind letter, of the 8th inst. written on board Steamer St. Charles. I was aware of the scarcity of provisions, at Mobile, and to sustain our negroes there, while working on the fortifications, I have issued a Circular letter to the State-impressment agents, to procure bacon. Enclosed is a copy of the letter. It is working well, & I hope, by this plan, to secure a sufficient supply. & You are correct in what you say, as to raising provision-crops this year. The enemy cannot conquer us in battle - but Famine would disband our armies. Here is our greatest danger. The War-Spirit of the North seems to have become more insatiate & Rampant of late. The bloodiest battles of the War are, probably, yet to be fought. The army must be fed, by the Cotton States, with a portion of N. Carla & Virginia, & the Slave-labor of the Country must be exclusively devoted to the production of provision Supplies. Gov Brown has called an extra Session of the Georgia Legislature, to reconsider their provision allowing 3 acres to the hand to be put down in cotton. Ours did not go far enough; 2500 lbs Seed Cotton to the hand is too much: none should be raised, except for seed, & home consumption for several reasons, I do not think it would be politic, to call our Legislature together now; but, though reluctant to issue proclamations - so many of which, I have been compelled, by circumstances to issue - I will send out a Circular letter letter to the Planters of Alabama, in a few days, Urging them not to plant cotton, but raise every kind of provisions, possible.

With high personal regards, I am, very truly, Your friend
(Signed) J. McGill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 13th, 1863.

Col. A. C. Beard, Aid-de-Camp, Huntsville, Ala. & Dear Sir, I should have replied Sooner to your letter of 28th Ult. but indisposition, which has incapacitated me for my usual labors, has prevented my doing so. I have recovered, & resumed the regular duties of my office. & The Suggestions of your letter, & your action upon the subject of calling-out the Militia, are highly approved; as well as the assurances given to Gen. Pillow & Gen. Wood, of the disposition & purpose of the State-authorities to "Coöperate with them, in executing any plan they might Suggest, for the defense of N. Alabama" Maj. Gen. Moakley has resigned, & a new Election has been ordered, by the Adj. Gen. to fill the vacancy. Try, & get a good man to fill the place. The enrollment &c go on, as you say, to enable the authorities to know what force is left, subject to Militia duty. & I am sorry to hear that the people are so slow, in organizing Companies of State Guard, & hope Col. Chadick may yet succeed. & The return of the Enemy into N. Ala. was unfortunate; and I am deeply pained at the news of the depredations, committed by them. I Sincerely trust that Such dis-

positions of our Military forces may be made, as shall prevent further raids and injury. I send this letter by Judge Gibson of Laurence, who leaves for N. Alabama this afternoon.

Resp'y, Your obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 13th, 1863.

To His Excellency, Jos. E. Brown, Gov of Georgia. Milledgeville Geo.

Sir; In reply to your telegram of the 11th Inst, I sent you a Dispatch, of which the enclosed is a Copy. In my message to our Gen. assembly, I recommended More Stringent provisions, to prevent raising Cotton, than were adopted. The Tax-law passed, taxes all seed Cotton, over 2500 lbs picked, at 10 cents per pound. I regret it did not go further, but from the present indications, if your present Legislature will act promptly; & pass Stringent Measures, & Earnestly recommend the Citizens of the other Cotton-States, not to plant Cotton, I believe that our planters, in Alabama will respond, by their acts, in the proper Spirit. I shall issue an address to them, in a few days, & appeal to their patriotism & Self-interest to devote their Energies to the Cultivation of provision Crops. There are good reasons, why I do not think it would be the most prudent course to assemble our Legislature, in Extraordinary Session, at this time. My own plantation is on the Chattahoochee River, in Quitman Co. Geo. & I have written my overseer, that he must not plant a seed of Cotton, the present year. I fully agree with you, as to the vital importance of this matter, & I sincerely hope that our planters will further illustrate their patriotic devotion, by their Course.

With high personal regards, I am
Your friend, & Obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 14th 1863.

Mr Jno Brown Appling, Ft. Gaines, Geo. Sir; Your Telegram, of the 13th, offering to deliver the Bacon, at Columbus, Geo., at 40 cents pr. pound, was received, last night & this morning, I replied, by Telegraph, advising you that I would accept it. I wish the Bacon for the hands, engaged on the public works, down our rivers, Hope you will dry & pack the meat securely. You can have it weighed at Columbus, by any reliable person, & quantity certified. I wish it delivered there to the agent of the Opelika & Montgomery Rail-Road, for prompt Shipment to this City. Have it marked to Col. W. R. Pickett, A. D. C. of Alabama at Montgomery. The amount due you, I will remit, by check on Eastern Bank of Alabama, at Eufaula or pay here, at the State Treasury, as you may wish.

Resp'y, Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 14th 1863.

Messrs Griffin & Peirce, Cloptom, Ala. Gent; In reply to your letter of the 7th inst. I have to say that the Salt must be delivered at Newton, Dale Co., Ala. according to Contract; as the Contract was made for the benefit of that County. Your hands are not liable to Military service in the Militia nor Confederate Army, So long as you continue to make Salt for the State of Alabama, & make 20 bushels a-day. Resp'y Yr obt Sert. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 14th, 1863.

Peter Hamilton, Esq. Chairman Ex Comm. Mobile

Dear Sir; I am in rec't of yours, of the 12th inst, & regret that the application made to Lieut. Gen. Pemberton has been unsuccessfull. I hope Gen. Johnston may take prompt action in the matter. You may rely upon my cordial co-operation, in any future effort to relieve the distress in your city.

I am gratified to hear that you have made a contract for one of the Minigard Guns, & Sincerely hope it may prove a success. The copy of the Contract, enclosed, is highly approved.

Very Respectfully,
Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department:
Montgomery, Ala. March 14th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Virginia.

Sir; I beg to hand you, herewith, the muster-roll of the "Morgan defenders", a company organized, under the Act, of the Confederate Congress, entitled, "an act to authorize the formation of Volunteer Companies for local defense", Approved, Oct. 13th, 1862. The officers were duly commissioned by me this day.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant:
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department:
Montgomery, March 17th 1863.

Messrs J. J. Patterson, & Co., Augusta, Geo.

Gent:- Your last letter received, & satisfactory. Hope we may have no further disappointments. I notice the plate of neither, the 25 cents nor the 50 cents bills, have "1st Series" or "any Series". I would suggest that the present plate stand as the "1st Series", & that you print the other Series, from No 2 up; as the numbering on the present plate will grow inconveniently large.

The Comptroller reports as follows.

10 cents; $100.000 ordered
87.696.50 rec'd
$12.303.50, Yet wanting— that is
123.035 bills, or 5859 Sheets.

5 cents, $20.000 ordered
14.000.70 received;
5.999.30. yet wanting; that is
119.986 bills, or 6714 Sheets.

Very respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 16th, 1863.

To the Planters of Alabama:

I recently caused to be published, for your information, the 9th Section of the Revenue law, passed at the last Session of our General Assembly, imposing a tax of ten cents per pound on all Seed Cotton- thereafter to be made and gathered over twenty five hundred to the full hand. This heavy tax, it was supposed, would operate to prevent the raising of Cotton beyond the quantity left free from taxation, but I desire, respectfully, to submit, for your calm consideration, whether circumstances, by which we are now surrounded, do not impose upon the planting community the duty of raising even less Cotton than the law allows, & thus to insure an increased quantity of breadstuffs & provisions. If you will look to the Map of the Confederacy, & trace the portions of Virginia, North- & South-Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, & Florida, which are, now, occupied by the Enemy, you will see the extent to which our resources are diminished from this cause. It must be remembered, also, that a large portion of the adjacent Territory is disturbed, to a degree, that will militate against its full, & successful Cultivation; that there are tens of thousands of strong arms wielding the sword, instead of guiding the plough; & that, in addition to these, large numbers, which the stern necessities of War are transferring from the field to the Camp, Thousands of others of our Countrymen, who have been driven from their homes, are, now, within our lines without the means of support; & that all these causes, while they operate to increase the demand for subsistence, diminish our capacity for production. Failing to accomplish our subjugation by the force of arms, & the power of Numbers, the enemy has called to his aid, the terrible appliances of Want & Starvation, & is carrying out this Savage & inhuman policy, by the wholesale larceny of Slaves, the seizure of provisions, & even, the destruction of agricultural implements. Are you, the planters of Alabama, prepared to aid in this policy by pursuing a course which may tend to its accomplishment? Look around you, at this moment when the Crop upon the which poor must mainly depend, is not yet planted, & behold the want & destitution which, notwithstanding the munificent provision made

by public & private benevolence, is to be found at the hearthstones of many, whose legitimate protectors have fallen in battle, or are now fighting, in the defense of your homes & property. Let us not deceive ourselves. The failure to raise the largest possible quantity of supplies, the present year, may bring disaster, & ruin upon our cause. The Soldier must be fed, his family provided for, & our home-population, white & black, must be supported. The experience of the past & the necessities of the present give serious & solemn warning, as to the future. Let not our armies - which have hitherto, by the blessing of God, proved invincible, be conquered or disbanded, by the want of subsistence in their Camps, or be demoralized by the presence of famine in their homes. These results can & will be prevented, if the planting community realize their heavy responsibility, & discharge their full duty to the country. The Legislature of Georgia is called to re-assemble, on the 25th inst: to reconsider their late action on this important subject: and the Confederate Congress, foreseeing the danger, has given timely notice of its approach, by an earnest appeal to the whole Country. The indications of a continuance of the war are so unmistakable, & the necessity of providing the means indispensable to its prosecution so urgent, that I have thought it not improper, to unite in the appeal to that class of our population, through whose active energies & foresight alone, those means can be supplied, & which, of all others, is the most deeply interested in the contest now being waged. And I sincerely trust that this appeal may not pass unheeded, but that the planters of Alabama, with united purpose, will devote their lands & labour to the production of subsistence for the people & the armies of the Confederacy. & While addressing you, it is due to myself, that I should advert to the heavy assessment made for Slave-labor, teams, & implements, for the construction of Fortifications, & works of public defense. The Authorities whose duty it is to provide for the protection of the State, are doing every thing in their power to secure that result. The Legislature having placed under my Control, every able-bodied male Slave in the State, for the accomplishment of this purpose, the people would hold me responsible, if I failed to employ it, so as to ensure the important object, for which alone it was confided to me. This can be done - only - by the Cooperation of the State Authorities with the Military commanding the Confederate forces within our territory. This cooperation has been heartily given, and shall be afforded, until I receive assurance from the Department to which that duty - properly belongs, that the public defenses are as impregnable as Skill, energy - labor & money can make them. The resources of the State have been appropriated, & in my opinion, wisely appropriated to the advancement of such a result, & it must be accomplished, if possible, at whatever cost of treasure, or individual inconvenience. Every Call which has been made upon you, has been forced by the demand, & the necessities of the occasion. The distribution of the burden, among the various Counties, has been made as equitably as an impartial will & purpose could devise: and the local execution of the appropriate orders has been committed to agents recommended for their sense of justice, discretion, firmness and integrity. In the discharge of duties so delicate, & yet so important, it was not to be expected that every act would meet universal approbation. Unquestionably, mistakes may have been committed, & mistakes & errors will occur, so long as Agents are men. It is, simply a matter of impossibility to adjust public burdens, by an exact & unvarying standard of perfect equality, & this truth should invite a cheerful acquiescence in all exactions made upon us for the achievement of success, in a struggle for life. & Of course, it is not within the scope of a communication like this, to go into details, but it is not improper that I should say, that every practicable means which could be used by the State authorities, has been used to ensure the comfort, health, and proper treatment of the Slaves employed upon the public works. Many exaggerated reports have been circulated, as to their sickness, & want of subsistence, but I think I can say, with certainty, that, while receiving double the pay of our Soldiers, they have been better fed, & that the sickness has not been as much as the average sickness among the same number of Soldiers, for the same period of time. For their subsistence, hereafter, at Mobile, & upon the Alabama & Tombigbee rivers, I have, recently been compelled to provide, through State instrumentality, in consequence of notice from the Confederate authorities, of their inability to do so; & the Slave-owners have, as a general rule, readily & cheerfully, responded to the requisitions for that purpose. & I have, uniformly, recognized the principle, and urged its adoption, that, in discharging, Slaves & teams, those longest in service should be

first relieved, but owing as I suppose, to the different localities in which they have been employed, the Confederate Authorities have not, always, deemed it consistent with the public interests to comply with my request in this respects. The last heavy assessments, however, will be promptly discharged within sixty days from their arrival at the works, & it is to be hoped that some may be relieved at an earlier day. I have felt, most sensibly, the inconvenience to which the people of the State would be subjected, by these heavy demands, at a most unpropitious season of the year, but they have been made by those who are charged with the high responsibility of protecting Alabama against invasion by the Enemy, & who are duly impressed with the necessity of an early completion of those defensive Works, which are essential to success. With a knowledge of their character & efficiency, & a due sense of the importance of a prompt response to the call made upon the State for the necessary labor, I could not - & would not hesitate, a moment, as to the course which duty required me to pursue. & Every precaution will be taken, to secure the owners - both in South & South Alabama, just compensation for the use of their property, while employed in the public Service; & if the Confederate Authorities fail to provide it, their claims will be adjusted at the State-Treasury. & No provision having been made by law, for remuneration, in case of the death of Mules, or negroes impressed, that question must be left for future Legislation. &. In conclusion, I beg to call your serious attention to the resolutions, recently adopted by the Lincoln Congress, notifying the Governments of Europe, "the United States was now grappling with an unprovoked - & wicked rebellion, which is seeking the destruction of the Republic, that it may build a new power, whose Corner-Stone - according to the confession of its chiefs, shall be Slavery; that, for the suppression of this Rebellion, & thus to save the Republic, & prevent the establishment of such a power, the National Government is, now, employing armies, & fleets, in full faith, that through these efforts, all the purposes of Conspirators, & rebels will be crushed." These Resolutions, thus appealing to the Anti-Slavery prejudices of foreign Governments, protest against any recognition of the Confederacy, on the ground that, based upon Slavery, as its "Corner-Stone", it is unworthy of such consideration. And this Congress have further resolved, that it is "their unalterable purpose, that the War will be vigorously prosecuted, until the rebellion shall be crushed." Thus, these resolutions, with the proclamations of Abraham Lincoln, & the Dictatorial powers, over the Army & Treasury, with which he has been recently clothed, by his Abolition Congress, give unmistakable evidence of his wicked policy & purpose. Let the country be warned by these developments; & especially, let the planters of Alabama, in view of the dangers, which threaten the overthrow, & destruction of their Social & political rights, consecrate their entire energies & resources, in the future, as they have done in the past - to the firm Maintenance of that righteous Cause, upon the triumph of which depends all they esteem dear on earth.

Your fellow-Citizen.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala March 18th 1863.

Hon. Jas. A. Seddon, Sec'y War, Richmond.

Sir, I particularly request the resignation of L. M. Stiff, Capt. Stiff, at the time he entered the Service, was Register & Receiver of the Land-Office, at at Centre in this State. He was not liable to Military duty, but went voluntarily. The needs of the State require his personal attention in the Land-office. He is a very efficient officer, & will be compelled to resign unless you discharge him. Resp'y, Yr Obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 18th 1863.

L. M. Stiff, Esq Centre, Ala.

Sir, I am in receipt of yours of 12th inst. Before deciding on the acceptance of your resignation of the office, as Register & Receiver of the Land-Office, at Centre, I have determined to write to the Secretary of War, & urge him to permit you to leave the Service. So soon, as I hear from him, I will advise you.

Resp'y Yr ob't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 19th 1863

Lieut. L. Le. Garland. Superintendent of Corps of Cadets, Univ. Ala.

Sir. In consideration of the peculiar condition of young Mr L. Harris, of Louisiana, appealing to our State Magnanimity, I have deemed it consistent with the honour & interests of Alabama to open her arms, & receive him to her bosom. His case, being an exceptional one, I will assume the responsibility of directing his admittance into the Alabama Corps of Cadets, at the University.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 19th 1863.

A. F. Jones Esq. Prest Shelby Iron Co.

Sir, I have forwarded your a/c versus Dixon, Nelson, & Co. to those Gentlemen, & will pay the same, so soon as it is returned approved by them.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 19th, 1863.

J. M. Hampton, Esq. Jasper, Ala.

Sir; I am in receipt of yours, of 14th inst. & will enclose the same to Mr Requier Con. St. attorney. I received a letter from Mrs Stewlett, stating the fact of her husband's arrest by the Enemy; and addressed Gen. Bragg, in person, on the subject; upon which, he determined to place, in close confinement, an officer of the Federal army, from, until Mr Stewlett's release. Mr Requier will give proper attention to the case of Mr Sheats. Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 19th, 1863.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge yours, of 25th Ult. which was rec'd on this day. Mr Alf. Nichols was not arrested by State authority, so far as I am informed; nor am I in possession of any charges against him. If the Military authority has no just grounds for retaining him in custody, I see no reason why he should not be discharged. Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 19th 1863

Dr Geo. Redwood, Hospital, Ringgold, Geo.

Sir; I have directed Col. W. R. Pickett, A. D. C. of Alabama, in this City, to ship you:
(1) Box, containing half-bushel each of dried apples, & peaches.
(1) Box, contributed for Ringgold Hospital.
(1) Box, clothing, contributed by mrs Victoria M. Clare.
I beg you to appropriate these articles, as, in your judgement, may be best for the use and benefit of Alabama Soldiers in the Ringgold Hospital. The boxes will be forwarded from here, in charge of Mr James M. Brundage, of N. Ala. who promises to leave them at Ringgold. They will be marked to you. Mr Brundage will have, in charge, a shipment of over 800 pairs of Cotton & Wool cards, procured by the State, for distribution, in the N. Ala. counties, to Soldiers' families; and, as he may not have time or opportunity to see you, as he passes up the Road, and may have to leave the boxes at the depot, I hope you will excuse me for requesting that you will give such notice or order to the Warehousemen, as will be certain to ensure the safe delivery to you, of the boxes when they arrive. Mr Brundage expects to get off to-morrow. If convenient, I shall be pleased to receive a note from you, after the arrival of the boxes, also, any suggestions which will enable me to add anything to the comfort of Alabama troops, at the Ringgold Hospital. Very Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive department, Montgomery, Ala, March 19th. 1863.

Messrs. Jno Fraser & Co, Charleston, S.C. Gent: The consignment of Cotton & Wool-cards has arrived safely, & is now being distributed, greatly to the joy of many poor families of our Soldiers. I enclose you a report of our Secretary of State, as only cumulative evidence of the misrepresentations & frauds, by which the Yankees have grown rich. I hope you will be able to get all the balance of the order, in Cotton-Cards- N° 10, & that I may have the pleasure, at an early day, to hear of their arrival in the City. For your Courtesy & Kindness, please accept my thanks.

Resp'y Yr obt Serv't. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala; March 20th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

Sir; I beg to hand you the enclosed affidavit by Mr John McNab, President of the Eastern Bank of Alabama, at Eufaula, Ala. Submitted in support of an application for the exemption of Mr L. Rhodes - the Teller of the Bank. The officers of this Bank are personally known to me, and the Eastern Bank is the only Bank in all Eastern Alabama; & it has, liberally, aided the public service. I know the importance of the exemption asked-for, in this case, and earnestly recommend that it be granted without delay, if consistent with the interests of the Country. I am confident that Mr Rhodes can render the Confederate Cause more benefit, in his present position, than if placed in the Army. Should you not have the power to order his exemption, I have to request that you will recommend the application to the President.

Respy, Your obt Sert

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 21st 1863.

Mrs Charles D. Williams,

My dear Madam; I referred your letter to the Adjutant Genl for his report upon the matters contained therein, & herewith hand you his communication in reply. I also inclose you copies of the Impressment Law - passed by the Legislature of Alabama, at their last Session, and of my instructions to impressment-Agents, and also, my "Circular letter to the Planters of Ala." &. I regret very much that you & have been inconvenienced, in the Mode stated by you; but we ought to try and bear, patiently, whatever burdens are thrown upon us, by the authorities who are charged with the responsibility of the public defense, & who are laboring to accomplish that result. Exact & even distribution of every burden is a matter of impossibility; & in a cause so sacred, & requiring such a large distribution of labor; & so many agents, much allowance should be made, when errors, & mistakes occur. The State-authorities will do every thing practicable to correct them; and I assure you, it will afford me, in your case, a sincere pleasure to do any thing in my power, consistent with the public Welfare, to protect your interests

With high regards, I am, very truly, yr friend & obt Sert.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 21st, 1863.

Gen D. L. Greene, Jr. Mar. Gen. Mobile

Sir; In reply to your letter of the 17th inst. preferring complaint against Mr Dodson, State-Agent at the Salt-works, on the lower reservation, I have to say that he was appointed, on a recommendation, as to his Efficiency. As, under the orders from this office, you are charged with the distribution of the Salt received by the State from the lessees of our Saline Waters, it is but proper to place the Agency at the Salt-Works established for this purpose, under your Superintendence & control. You are, therefore, empowered, with all needful authority, to remove & appoint Agents, with a view of securing prompt & efficient aid in carrying out the duties imposed upon you. & In an interview recently had with Mr McGehee, State-Salt-Commissioner, he expressed the opinion that the duties of this Agency were so limited that they could be performed for less compensation than the State has been paying. He will be in Mobile, in a few days, on his return to the Salt-works, & I desire you to confer with him on this subject. Respy Yrs

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Alabama Executive Department, March 21st 1863. Montgomery

Dr G. G. Griffin, Demopolis, Ala. Dear Sir; In reply to your letter of 16th inst. I have to say that, not being aware of any impressment of Slaves to work upon the Rail-Roads, I did not embrace any reference to that matter, in my letter of instructions to Impressment Agents. If hands were impressed by the Government to work upon the Rail-Roads, the labor being thus devoted to the public service, it will be but fair to allow credit for the same, in making further requisition, in aid of the public defenses, & you are hereby authorized to present this letter to the impressment agents in your Co. who will, I have no doubt, cheerfully correct any over-assessment, against you, for Slaves to work on our State Defences.

Respectfully, Yr obt Sert (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 21st 1863

Lieut. Eli S. Shorter, aid-de-camp, Eufaula, Ala.

Sir; You dispatched me, on the 4th inst. that a telegram had been received at Eufaula, from Gen. Buckner, countermanding the order for the ten teams, impressed in Barbour Co. which were then, on their way to Greenville, & which, under your dispatch, had turned back from Greenville, after their arrival there, on the 8th inst. I now wish you to forward to this office, a copy of Gen. Buckner's order, so that I may place it on file for future reference. If the teams were released on application of their owners, they would, in equity, not be entitled to compensation, but if the order was issued by Gen. Buckner, for other reasons, whatever Compensation the State might pay them, should be refunded by the Engineer Department at Mobile. As the order for the discharge of these teams did not emanate from this office, & was not communicated, through me to the Impressment Agents — otherwise, than to direct the return of the teams from Greenville, I wish to retain, in this office, the evidence of the fact.

Resp'y Yrs.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

ind. to this March 21st '63

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 21st, 1863.

Capt. John A. Winbourne, Sir; In entering upon your duties, as assistant Quarter-Master, & Agent for the State of Alabama, to procure transportation of Salt from the New-Iberia Salt-Mines to this State, you will proceed to Mobile, & confer with & report to Gen Duff C. Green, Qr-Mr-Gen., who will give you such information & instructions, as will tend to facilitate the Shipments you will have in charge. &. Gen. Green will also furnish you with such letters of credit as may be necessary for the payment of freights, purchase of barrels, & transportation to Vicksburg. &. You will make General Reports of your operations to this Department, from time to time, so that I may be kept advised of your movements, prospect of success &c. &. You will advise Gen. Green of all purchases & Shipments, and also of all receipts & expenditures of money, as often as he may direct, & in the manner he may point out. &. Gen. Green will be directed to make selection of a business-house, at Vicksburg, to act as agents for the State, through which you will Ship all Salt, & who will arrange financial matters in the West, for the purpose of your Agency. &. Before making any arrangements to receive Salt from the Contractors at the mine, you will ascertain whether you can procure barrels, upon fair terms, & at Suitable times, and make your arrangements to receive Salt from them accordingly. If you cannot procure barrels, or other means by & in which to transport, you will leave the entire matter of transportation in the hands of the Contractors, on their own account. &. In case you can procure the Means of Transportation, you will exercise a Sound discretion as to time & conveyances, and must act upon your judgement, in many Cases, as to the amount to be paid, & the means of transportation to be used, giving preference to that which promises most for certainty & economy. In this matter, you may obtain Valuable assistance from Gen. or Col. Bradford, who have had much experience in Such Matters. &. Unless you can have some certainty of procuring transportation to Vicksburg, you will not make any demand for Salt from the Contractors. Report prospects, immediately, on arrival at New-Iberia.

Yrs Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 23d 1863.

Lieut. D. D. Fitzpatrick, Provost Marshall, Jackson, Miss.

Sir; I am in receipt of your letter, of the 15th inst. advising the shipment of 12 Boxes of Material for the Manufacture of Cotton Cards, which were duly received by Express. Mr Eliasburg, recommended by citizens of Selma, applied, Sometime last Spring, for a Passport to procure this Material, & as the cards will enter into use within the State, I have deemed it but just to him, to release them to him, upon payment of the charges. Please accept my thanks for your Courtesy.

Very Resp'l Yrs,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 23d 1863

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Comm'g N. Mobile.

Sir; I respectfully enclose to you, a letter rec'd from Mr Dennis D. Hart, of Covington Co. mailed at Brooklyn, Ala. Complaining of injury to his Stock, committed by troops from Pollard, &c. I know it is not your intention, nor desire to permit irregular Seizures, or wanton injury to property by any portion of the forces under your Command, and have assured Mr Hart, that you will afford redress for such injury, as he may have suffered.

Very Resp'y

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department:
Montgomery, Ala. March 23d 1863.

P. Hamilton, Chairman Ex. Comm. Mobile.

Sir; Yours of 21st inst. advising of the embarrassment of the Engineer Department, at Mobile for want of funds, & proposing further advances to it by the State, is rec'd. I regret that the condition of the State Treasury will not justify a further advance of $100.000 at this time. The taxes are coming in very slowly, & the Treasury-note Change-bills are so small in amount, tho' numerous, & the weekly deliveries of Notes so limited in quantity of dollars, that the Treasurer reports it inconvenient to spare the above amount from the daily demands upon the Treasury. The large appropriations for the benefit of indigent families, & temporary loans made the State which have to be provided for, interfere with large advances to the Engineer Dep't. We have ordered two & a half millions of Change-bills to be printed, but it will require many months to get them ready. Up to this time we have not received over $.230.000. You will remember that the State, in issuing those bills, was actuated by the purpose to save interest, as well as to furnish a local Change Currency. With every disposition to aid the Confederate Authorities, in pushing on the defensive works at Mobile, you will see that continued advances of large sums are not within the ability of the State Treasury, at this time. I have persuaded the Treasurer, however, to make a further advance to the Executive Committee of $50.000. which I herewith transmit to you, to be handed to the Treasurer of the Committee.

Resp'y Yr obt Serv't

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department:
Montgomery, Ala. March 23d 1863.

Gen. Braxton Bragg, Comm'g N. Dalton, Geo.

Mrs M. D. Montgomery, of this city, is now under circumstances of peculiar affliction & distress; her husband being at the point of death with consumption, & there being no prospect of his living for more than a few days. She has no male relative near her, and her brother, Mr Joseph B. Goode, is a private in Capt. H. C. Semple's Artillery, Brigade of Gen. S. A. M. Wood, under your command. &c. To have his presence in this season of trial & affliction, as well as his counsel & advice, she desires that you would approve his furlough for twenty days, & under the circumstances, if it can be consistent with the requirements & necessities of the service, I would, respectfully, request that her application may be granted.

Very resp'y Yr. obt Serv't

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 23d 1863

Gen. Duff C. Green, Quarter-Master Gen. Mobile. Sir; The bearer, Capt. Jno A. Winbourne, has been appointed A. Qr. Mr. of the State, & ordered to proceed to the New-Iberia mines, to procure transportation, and forward Salt, from the Contractors there, to Vicksburg. &c. He has been instructed not to demand nor receive any Salt, unless he can, with certainty, procure barrels, for packing, & transportation to Vicksburg. If the river remains under the control of the enemy's gun-boats, of course, Nothing can be done. &c. But if he should be able to succeed he will require funds for the purchase or manufacture of barrels, & the prepayment of freight to Vicksburg, & you will furnish him with letters of credit upon some house there, or procure such letters from one of your Banks, in his favor, as may be sufficient for the accomplishment of his business. It will be necessary, also, to secure some house, as Agent for the State, to receive & forward Salt from Vicksburg; and you will make arrangements accordingly, & give them assurances that the State will promptly meet & repay all liabilities & advances. You may recommend Capt. Winbourne as fully reliable. He will exhibit to you his instructions, by which you will learn the full object of his appointment, and be able to give him full instructions, as to his reports to be made to you.

You will please give him such direction & advice, as to his duties, as your experience may suggest. Herewith I forward copy of the Contract made with Col. Bradford, for mining the Salt, to be kept & filed in your office for your information.

Very Resp'y Your obt Serv't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery Ala: March 24th 1863.

Lieut. Col. M. Maury, Comm'g 32d Ala. Regt. Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Sir: I am in rec't of your letter of 20th inst. asking for an appropriation of Conscripts to your Regiment, and endorsed by Lieut. Gen. Hardee. I fully appreciate the gallantry of the 32d which has so thinned its ranks, & which has added so much to the renown of our State; and, if the direction of the distribution of Conscripts were under my control, would, most cheerfully, grant your request. But these directions are under orders of the Adjutant-Gen., & I believe that, for Gen. Bragg's army, the duty has been devolved upon Gen. G. J. Pillow. I have, however, referred your letter to Maj. Swanson, Commandant of the Conscript Camp, Notasulga, who may be able to assign you some Conscripts. Hoping that your ranks may soon be filled, & that your gallant Regiment may emulate its old fame, I am, very Respectfully,

Your obt Serv't (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. March 24th 1863.

Col. Joseph M. Bradford; Ag't State of Alabama, Avery's Salt-Mine, La.

Sir: Capt. John A. Winbourne is appointed Assistant Quarter-Master of the State, with orders to proceed to the Mines at New-Iberia, and demand & receive Salt, & procure transportation, & superintend the same, to Vicksburg. You will give full credit to his authority, as such, and will please afford him such assistance and advice, as may best promote the object of his orders, & aid the State in procuring its Supplies. Your experience and acquaintance will enable you to be of material assistance to him, & its exercise entitle you to my thanks.

Very Respectfully, Yours,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. March 25th, 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner; Comm'dg Ft. Mobile,

Sir, The State has now, established, at Selma, a machine for the manufacture of Cotton cards, under the direction of Mr J. M. Keep, the inventor, who has, also, succeeded in making his own wire, from Alabama-iron. To carry-on the business, the Superintendent needs the Services of Dudley B. Merrill, a native of New-Hampshire, & enrolled in Calhoun Co. now in the Provost-guard, at Selma, as Carpenter & Engineer. I trust that the importance of this manufacture to the clothing of the people & the Army, will, if consistent with the rules & exigences of the service, induce you to grant a detail of Mr Merrill, & order him to report to J. M. Keep, Superintendent of the Ala. Card-Manufacturing Co. at Selma.

A second machine will soon be completed, & by the Month of July, I expect will have six in full operation.

Very resp'y Yr obt Serv't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. March 26th 1863

W. G. Prater, Esq.

Andalusia, Ala.

Sir;

Your letter of 22d inst. is at hand, and, in reply I say that Tax-Assessors & Collectors—being Executive Officers of the State—are not liable to Military duty, under the acts of Congress, and no officer has the right to enrol them, as such.

Very Respectfully,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 25th 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq: Ch'n Ex. Comm. Mobile.

Sir; I am in receipt of your letter of 22d inst: enclosing Memorandum, by Impressment Agents, for Mobile County. The difficulties, & inconveniences alluded to, are duly appreciated, but the Census of 1860 shows that Mobile had a Slave population of near 70000. The aggregate calls made by Gen. Buckner (not counting previous requisitions) for slave-laborers at Mobile, and on the rivers, amount to 7000. To meet them, it was, obviously, my duty to distribute the burden over a large area of the State; & from Calhoun Co. on the East; to Pickens on the West; I have divided the assessments among the Slave-holding Counties to the Gulf. There is not a County from which complaints have not been made, in one shape or other, & in many instances, it has been said, that Mobile & the River-Counties should do all the work. The heavy burden now laid upon the planting Counties, is severely felt; & while I do not allow selfish & narrow-minded complaints to affect my action, yet it is, manifestly, proper, that Mobile Co. which is so immediately & directly interested, sh'd contribute her full share towards the construction of her own defensive works.

Under this view of the case, I must leave the matter with the Impressment Agents, in good faith, to execute the order in Mobile Co.; and, if impracticable to do so, to report, officially, the facts to this Department. I cannot, with justice, or propriety, determine otherwise.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 25th, 1863.

Messrs D. J. Patterson, & Co. Augusta, Geo.

Gent'n: Upon consultation with the Treasurer, & Comptroller of the State of Alabama, I have concluded to order an additional issue of change-bills to the amount of $1.000.000. You will please furnish them, in the following proportion; to wit;

Of $1's bills = $500.000
Of .50 cent bills = $300.000
Of .25 " " = $200.000 = $1000.000.

I hope that, being thus early notified, you may be able to make such early arrangements, as shall secure the handsome execution & prompt delivery of the notes, according to Contract.

Resp'y, Yr Obed't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 25th 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Sec'y of War, Richmond.

Sir; I respectfully refer to your consideration the enclosed communication from Hon. Dillon Jordan, in reference to destitute families, sent, by Military order, from Pensacola, to this City. The letter of Judge Jordan fully explains the circumstances of the removal, & I need say nothing on that head. But their situation, deprived of the means of support, in a city, whose benevolence is taxed heavily for the maintenance of its own unfortunates; at a time of unexampled high prices for all the necessaries of life; & with a scarcity of work, at unremunerative prices; is truly deplorable; & as they were removed by Military authority, under assurances that they would be provided with fuel, quarters, & subsistence, I would, most respectfully, urge that you would give such instructions & orders, as will preserve them from want; & redeem what they consider, a pledge of the Government.

See page 353. Very Resp'y, Your obt Serv't. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 25th 1863.

Wm R. Huse, Esq: Agent of Bath Paper Mills, Augusta, Geo.

Sir; From the clipping of the State-change Bills, a considerable quantity of paper-strips has been collected, for which parties, in this city, are desirous of contracting. &. As the paper for our bills has been manufactured by you, & the clippings may be more valuable to you than to others, I am inclined to give you the preference; if you desire to purchase; if so, you will please make an offer, giving directions for Shipment. &.

Very Resp'y Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. March 26th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

Sir; I have the honor to enclose copies of Telegraphic Correspondence, & receipts, the originals of which are on file in this Department. No part of the twenty-five thousand dollars advanced by the State, has been repaid, but I learn from Lieut. Col. Jno. T. Morgan, that the Quarter-Master & Commissary of his Regiment have accounted for the amounts as shewn by their respective receipts to the heads of the proper bureaus at Richmond. At the time of the advance, the Regiment was known as the 1st Regt. Ala Partizans, but more recently, I believe, as the 51st Ala. Cavalry. You are respectfully requested to take such measures as may be necessary, to secure the State the repayment of the sum advanced, at an early day.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

2 Copies of letters, referred to in letter to Mr. Seddon, on page 352

Confederate States of America, 2d. Mr's Dep't. Montgomery, Ala, March 16th 1863

Hon. Dillon Jordan, Montgomery, Ala. Sir; In reply to yours, of this date, I have to State that immediately preceding the evacuation of Pensacola by our forces, Brig. Gen. Tho. M. Jones sent a number of Women & children, who had been made destitute, to this place, requesting Maj. J. L. Calhoun to provide Shelter, fuel, & subsistence for them, Stating, at the same time, that he had applied to the proper authorities, and that an order would be, speedily, issued, recognizing this proceeding. Maj. Calhoun made the necessary provisions to the extent of his ability. The Order, however referred to by Gen. Jones, was not issued & rations of fuel have, since, been stopped.

Very Resp'y, H. Kennewoth, Capt. & a. 2. m.

Montgomery, Ala. March 25th, 1863

His Excellency, Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov. of Alabama.

My Dear Sir, A short time previous to the evacuation of Pensacola & Milton, & while the same was anticipated, many of our patriotic citizens, who were in very limited circumstances, and whose families were supported by their daily labor, joined our Army as volunteers, under an assurance that their families would be provided for. Upon the evacuation of Pensacola, Brig. Gen. Tho. M. Jones sent the families of these volunteers to this City, with a request that these destitute families sh'd be provided with Shelter, fuel, & Subsistence, which request was complied with by the 2d. Mr. here, Maj. J. L. Calhoun. About two months ago — Suddenly, & unexpectedly — these women & children were refused any further Supply of fuel & Subsistence, & were, of course, left in a most helpless and deplorable condition. But for the immediate assistance rendered them by a few benevolent & charitable citizens, they would have suffered extremely from cold and hunger. I immediately addressed a letter to Maj. Gen. Buckner, Stating the circumstances under which these Women & children were Sent to Montgomery, & asking him to issue an order to the 2d Mr — to continue to furnish them with food & fuel, to which letter, I have not rec'd a reply. I, therefore, in behalf of these destitute Women & children, whose husbands, fathers, brothers, & Sons are fighting our battles, and whose humble homes have been destroyed by the enemy, ask you to aid me, as far as you can, in obtaining an order from the Hon. Sec'y of War, to the proper authorities, to continue to furnish them with Shelter, food, & fuel. In so doing, your charity will be exercised towards those who truly deserve it. I will, with pleasure, render any assistance in my power, in seeing that none Shall partake of this aid, but such as are justly entitled to it.

I have the honor to be, Most resp'y.

Your Obt Serv't.

Dillon Jordan.

P.S. Herewith, I send you a communication rec'd from Capt. H. Kennewoth, which is at your disposal.

I have &c D. Jordan

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. March 28th 1863.

Mr A. H. Jones, Pres.t Shelby Iron Co. Selma, Ala.

Dear Sir; I forwarded the account for iron furnished Mess.rs Dixon, Nelson, & Co. to Adairsville Georgia their place of business, & I here with hand you their letter, to which I invite your attention. If they state their Contract correctly, (and I presume they do, as they are gentlemen of the highest character) as to your undertaking to deliver the iron prior to November last, it would seem that the Company should charge them only ten cents per lb. Still, you observe that they say, "If the Co. could not carry out their Contract with us, owing to Government Demands, then we think it was not their fault." And they submit to me to make the Settlement for them, on this basis. Under these circumstances, I Suggest that you forward, to this office, an affidavit, Stating that the failure to deliver was occasioned by the pressing orders or Commands of the Government. With the return of this affidavit and the account, I will draw a warrant on the Treasurer for its Payment. And as all claims against the State are payable at the Treasury, it will be best for you to authorize, in writing, some person, in this city, to receipt to the Treasurer, for the amount. You can appoint my private Secretary, Mr John B. Taylor, who can buy you a check on Selma, at ¼ p/c premium.

Respectfully, Yr obt Sert.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. March 28th 1863.

Capt Jno. A. Averett, jr. Kinston, N.C. Sir; Your letter, of 21st inst. is before me, & in reply, I would State that I have had a local force organized in St. Clair County, for the protection desired by the men of your command, & as your Company is in the Confederate Service, it would be impossible to obtain orders for its removal to Alabama, even though detached. I think you need be under no apprehension, as to future depredations upon the families of your command.

Very Resp'y,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. March 28th, 1863.

Maj. Gen: D. H. Buckner, Mobile.

Sir; I am in rec.t of a letter from P. Hamilton, Esq.r chairman of the Executive Comm. of the Comm: of Safety for Mobile, in which he says, that "no less than six of our River or Bay-Steam boats are, at this moment, fitting-out to run the blockade, & carry Cotton to Cuba"; & he, officially, advises me, that "the Committee are deeply impressed with the Conviction, that it would be unwise & dangerous to permit these Vessels to go out." & The Committee of Safety are of opinion that we have no greater number of Steam-boats in our waters, than are, or may be needed for general & special transportation; & if parties are allowed to withdraw them from their present Service, & engage them in running the blockade, there is great danger that more or less of them will be lost or captured. In this opinion I fully concur, & take this occasion to enter my official protest against the policy of permitting the limited number of Steamboats, in our possession, to be reduced for this purpose. & The propriety of exporting Cotton, & the conditions on which it should be tolerated or encouraged, are questions for the decision of the Confederate Authorities; and, I presume their views have been fully communicated to the Military Commanders, at our Seaports. These questions affecting, as they do, the general interest of the whole Country, may be properly, left to the control of the Confederate Authorities at Richmond. We may, also, Safely, leave with them, the various questions of the blockade; but the particular grievance, herein brot to your attention, is local in its character, & immediately, concerns the interests of your Command, & of the State of Alabama. I hope, therefore, you will pardon me for invoking the Military power, under your control, to prevent the departure of these Steam-boats from Mobile, at least until the propriety of the act can be examined into, & decided upon, by the War-Department, at Richmond.

Respectfully,
Your obedient Servant
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov.r of Alabama.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th, 1863

P. Hamilton, Esq. Chairman Ex. Comm. Mobile

Dear Sir; I duly rec'd your official communication of the 28th inst. in relation to the Conversion of our Bay & River-Steamboats into Blockade runners, for which I am obliged. I wrote immediately to the Sec. of War, & Maj. Gen. Buckner, on the subject, I enclose copies of the letters, & hope the parties may be stopped.

Resp'n, Yr Ob't Ser't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 28th, 1863

Hon. James A. Seddon, Sec. of War, Rich'd.

Sir; I here with hand you copy of a letter, written by the direction of the Executive Comm. of Safety, of Mobile, to me, in relation to the conversion of our bay & River-Steamboats for running the blockade to Cuba. I also enclose copy of a letter addressed, by me, this day, to Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, to both of which, I beg to call your early attention. I will not enlarge upon the subject; it is one of importance & the letter of P. Hamilton, Esq. presents the objections to the policy, in an unanswerable view. Hoping to hear from you soon, I have the honor to be,

Resp'y, Yr ob't Ser't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

1774 on 28th
Ind to here

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 28th, 1863.

Mr R. B. Bullock, Superintendent of the So. Exp. Co. Augusta, Geo.

Dear Sir: Before contracting with your Co. for the transportation of the Treasury notes for the State of Alabama, & in reply to the question I submitted, as to the charges of transportation, Mr Plant, the President of the Company, proposes to deliver 250.000 notes-weekly-for the sum of $. 30. I accepted this proposition. The Co. was apprized of the denominations of the notes, & cannot, now, fairly contend that there was any misunderstanding. What would be the size of the box or its weight were matters unknown to me, & they were not stipulated for, in the agreement. As it now requires a box, a little larger than the one, with which the Company made half-a-dozen trips, & a little heavier in order to hold 250,000 Notes, I am notified, by Mr St. le. Whitehead, Treasurer of the Co. in a letter, under date of the 14th inst. that he is instructed, by you to say, "that owing to the increased size and weight of the box, the freight will be forty-five instead of thirty dollars." As the rate of freight was fixed by Contract, I do not admit your right to change it, nor the propriety of the notice in the form stated. If the charge, of $ 30, has been predicated of any assumed Standard of weight & measure, which induced the fixing of the charge at that figure, & there, were, afterwards changed by me, then it would be fair to allow increased compensation, in proportion to the increase in size & weight, but no more. Upon the first point I have no evidence that the charge was thus fixed, but will consider it, if submitted to me; & if it be furnished, then, I am willing to increase the freight-charge, in proportion to the increased size & wright of the box. The Co cannot, in justice-or in fairness, ask more. I wrote you, over a week ago, enclosing a copy of Mr Plant's letter, but have not heard from you in reply. I now address you again, for the reason that the agent of the Co. to-day, presented an account against the State, for the increased charge, which I declined to pay. Please let me hear from you. Respectfully, Yr's

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 28th, 1863

Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Sec'y of State, Richmond.

Sir; I beg to hand you, enclosed, an Article, clipped from the "Register & Advertiser," of Mobile, issued the 27th inst. headed "the British Consulate." With no less mortification than Surprize, I read, in this Article, the announcement, that James Magee Esq.-Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Port of Mobile, has been, summarily, removed from his Office, by the British Government. It is stated, too, that the cause of his removal was, that he received from the Agents of the State of Alabama, and from

warded, by the "Vesuvius," a British War-vessel, a certain amount of money ~~which~~ to pay the Interest which should become due, on the Bonds of the State, held by British Subjects abroad. &. Without Stopping, to enquire whether the Payment of the debt, under the circumstances attending this remittance, is a breach of the Blockade, or whether the State might not have made other provision to meet the Interest on the Bonds, it is affirmed that the Shipment was made by the Consent of Commodore Hitchcock, commanding the blockading fleet off the Port of Mobile. He was fully advised of all the facts by the Capt. of the British Vessel, and gave his free assent, before the Capt would receive the Money on Board his Vessel. Now, therefore, could any blame attach either to the conduct of the Vice-Consul, or of the Capt of the vessel? &. This action of the British Government is so remarkable, that I am constrained to the opinion that the decision was taken prematurely, without a full understanding of all the facts, or that it was a deliberate declaration of sympathy for our Enemies, & discrimination in their favour, & against the Confederate States. In the absence of recognition of the Confederate States, by the Governments of Europe, their Consuls, within our limits have been tolerated, from comity, and because long residence within our territory, and acquaintance with our institutions, and, in many instances—like the one under review—endeared to our people; and, well knowing the justice of our holy cause, it was believed that, if not consistent with their official position, to render any active service to the Confederate States, they could &, probably, might forward truthful & impartial information to their own Governments, as to the progress of events within our limits. &. In the case of Mr Magee, the State of Alabama has a personal interest, & his removal, under the circumstances stated, She feels to be a personal grievance. His long residence in Mobile—his able, & faithful administration of his office, & his high bearing as a Gentleman, rendered his continued abode in the State most agreeable to our people; & now, that he is removed for the reason, that he assumed the agency for the transfer of money for the citizens of his own Country, due to them by the State of Alabama, & which the State, in good faith, (had provided to meet the debt) and which Agency was discharged without the violation of any assumed Neutrality of his own Government; I have concluded that it becomes my duty to give you official notice of the fact, that this removal, for the reason—& upon the ground alleged, was not required by International Law, & that I can regard it in no other light than an unjust discrimination in favour of our enemies. And entertaining this opinion, I herein enter my solemn protest against the further permission or licence, by the Confederate Government, of any Consular Authority, by Agent or Representative, other than Mr Magee, within the limits of the State of Alabama, until that Government shall have formally acknowledged the Separate independence of the Confederate States of America. & With high considerations of regard, I have the honor to be

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of the State of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th 1863.

James Magee, Esq. Mobile.

Sir; I beg, in this form, to express to you, my Surprize and regret, at the action of the British Government, in removing you from the Consular Office, at the Port of Mobile. This action of your Government has been the occasion for an official letter, addressed by me to the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, a copy of which I, herewith enclose.

This communication will be delivered to you, by Col. R. Hamilton, My Special Aid-de-camp in the City of Mobile

With high considerations of regard, I have the honor to be,

Respectfully,

Your Obt Serv't.

(Signed)

Jno Gill Shorter,

Gov of the State of Ala-

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th 1863

P. Hamilton, Esq. Mobile.

Sir; I duly received your interesting letter of 25th inst. in relation to the removal of Dr Magee, Esq. her Britannick Majesty's Vice Consul at Mobile. His action of the British Government is, in my opinion, anomalous, & deeply to be regretted. I have made it the occasion for an official communication to our Secretary of State, at Richmond, a copy of which I herewith enclose you. I have, also, this day, written a letter to Mr Magee, and furnished him, likewise, a copy of the communication, fowarded to the Secretary of State. A copy of my letter to Mr Magee, I also enclose to you. Resp'y, Yr obt Sert (Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

P.S. On reflection, I have deemed it most proper to send the letter for Mr Magee, to your care, & have to request that you will do me the favor to deliver it to him in person. J. G. S.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th 1863

Gen. N. Clisspher, Esq. Courtland, Ala.

Sir; I have, to-day, rec'd & approved your Bond, as Salt-Agent of the State at Courtland, and am, also, in rec't of your letter of 24th inst. & On all Salt sold by you (except that turned over to the County Commissioners, under the instructions given through Gen. D. L. Green, in lieu of amount due from Contracts of lease of Salt-Lands) you will add the cost of hauling & other expenses, to the original cost. The expense of R. Road transportation will be paid, in whole or in part, by the Agents in Virginia & Tennessee, but, of that you will be notified, but; whether paid by you or by them, the amount must be added to the original cost, & so, charged to the Consumer who purchases from you. This Agency will not protect you from Conscription, but I enclose you a certificate of Agency.

Very Resp'y. Yrs. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th, 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq. Ch'n Ex. Comm. Mobile

Sir; I am in rec't of your fav of the 25th inst. enclosing a memorandum of sale by the Treasurer of the Comm. of Safety, which is Satisfactory. In my letter, to which you refer, I advised you of the Condition of our State Treasury, & that we might not be able to meet Sudden demands for heavy amounts to advance, in aid of the Engineer Department. It is the true financial policy of the State to increase its interest-bearing debt as little as possible. I have Sold $. 1.500.000 of 6 per bonds, and with the issue of State Change-Bills, now going on, Bills we can go through the Year, without further loans. These, I wish to avoid, if possible. None of our defensive works, or military necessities, however, must be delayed or neglected, for want of means. You must bear in mind, the $. 2.000.000 appropriation for Soldiers' families — $. 1.000.000 of which, we have already provided, & disbursed, besides other large Sums appropriated to various objects. You may rest assured that I will Stand by you, & assist you, to the utmost of my ability. In the mean time, would it not be well to telegraph your Representative at Richmond, to hurry up the appropriations for the Engineer department. They need a little jogging at Richmond. Allow me to add, that having, heretofore made large advances to the Confederate Authorities, I know Something of the difficulties and delays attending the re-imbursents.

Respectfully, Your obt Ser't;
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th 1863.

Col. A. B. Moore, Aid-de-Camp, Choctaw Bluff.

Sir; Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of the Engineer Department, at Mobile, having requested me to turn over, to his Department, the whole Subject of River-obstructions, which proposition is approved by me; You will turn over & deliver, to his order, all the Materials collected by the State-authorities for the works in question.

Respectfully,
Your obt Ser't;
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. March 30th, 1863.

Col. A. B. Moore, Aid-de-Camp, Choctaw-Bluff.

Sir: Herewith, I hand you copies of Telegraphic Correspondence had by me, with the Secretary of War, & Col. Gilmer, Chief of Engineer Bureau, at Richmond, in relation to the work of obstructing the Alabama River. I also hand you Copy of a letter, addressed to me, by Brig. Gen. Leadbetter Chief of Engineer Dep't at Mobile, under date of 28th inst; proposing that the State Authorities should turn-over to his department, all the materials collected for river-obstruction, &, in such event, giving assurance, that the Engineer Department would do whatever it could to accomplish the object we have in view. I hand you also a copy of my reply to Gen. Leadbetter, of this date, accepting his proposal, & a copy of the order furnished him, upon you, to turn-over, to his Department, all the Materials collected by the State, for the works in question. This Correspondence, together with communications, which you have heretofore seen, will fully advise you of the views of this Department, as to the further progress of the works for the defense of our Rivers. You are aware of the deep solicitude, which the State Authorities have felt - not only for the Safety of Mobile, but for the construction of such defensive works upon the Alabama & Tombigby Rivers, as would serve, effectually, to check the advance of the Enemy to the interior of the State. The duty was devolved upon the Military Authorities of the Confederacy, to provide these defensive works, but, owing to the want of an adequate Engineer force, the works were greatly delayed at Mobile, and, upon the rivers they undertook the erection of batteries for the Artillery, declining to assume the responsibility of placing obstructions in the Rivers. This omission, on part of the Engineer Department, devolved, upon the State Authorities, that duty, & you are well-aware of the difficulties which have attended the undertaking. Notwithstanding these, we have, with all possible energy, prosecuted the work, until the Engineer Department, after receiving an additional force, has proposed to relieve the State authorities from all further responsibility. In view of the great diversity of opinion as to the most feasible plans, & the heavy responsibility involved in making a Selection, & in consideration of the higher Skill, which, in candor & justice, must be conceded to Engineer officers of the Army, I feel, that, in now turning-over the whole Matter to the Engineer-Department, I am pursuing the best course for the welfare of the State. It is proper to add, in this connection, that, under this arrangement, the works on the batteries - & other flanking land-defenses, & the works for the river obstructions, will, in all probability, proceed with more System & harmony; & when fully completed - if occasion should require their use, will prove more available under the management & direction of the Military Authorities, by whom they were each & all constructed. You will observe that Gen. Leadbetter requests that we turn-over to him "all the materials which we have collected for the works," & my order upon you is limited, accordingly. In a like request made upon me, & under which I turned-over the works on the Tombigbee-river, Gen'l Leadbetter desired the State to continue to furnish the labor for their completion. This matter is not mentioned in his letter of the 28th inst: & I assume that, in this instance, also, he expects the State to furnish the labor necessary to accomplish whatever plan of obstructions he may adopt; and I will cheerfully co-operate with him, in that respect. For the advancement of this purpose, I have to advise, that your continuance upon the rivers will be necessary, to give that genual Supervision to the Slaves & teams, & other property impressed by the State, which you have heretofore done with So much Satisfaction, & advantage to the people. Whether the Services of Capt. Pearson, & the Small Steamboat, under his command, will be longer needed, is referred to your decision. Should they not be required, you will return the Boat to her owners, with a certificate, Stating the time She has been employed by the State; and notify Capt. Pearson, that he can be relieved of further duty for the State.

I Shall write to Capt. Farrand, by next Mail, and advise him of the correspondence had with the Engineer - Department; & of the orders given - as herein Communicated.

Respectfully, Your obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 30th 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineer Department, Mobile.

Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge rec't of your letter of 28th inst. in which you advise me, that you are authorized, by the Chief of the Engineer-department at Richmond, to say to me, that if I will turn-over, to your Department, the whole Subject of River-obstructions

every exertion will be made, on your part, to effect satisfactory results, and, accordingly, you request that I will turn-over to your department the materials collected by the State-authorities, for the works in question. &. This proposition is agreeable to me, and approved upon the grounds that the State has no engineers, at her command, to superintend & direct the construction of these important works, and because, as they must constitute a part of the system of defenses, on the Banks of the rivers where located, which will be under the Military direction of the Confederate authorities, they should, properly, be constructed, by the same Engineer Corps. &. I deem it proper to add - as I have heretofore advised you, that the work of obstructing the rivers was undertaken by the State-authorities, for the reason that the Engineer Department of the Confederate States declined to undertake it. I am gratified now, at the opportunity afforded me to deposit this important trust, in the hands of an Officer, whose energy & skill are so fully known, & so highly regarded by the people of Alabama. &. Enclosed, I hand you an order on my Aid-de-Camp Col. A. B. Moore, now at Choctaw-Bluff - to turn-over to your department, all the materials ~~collected~~ by the State-authorities, for the works in question. Col. Moore will remain to give you all assistance, in his power, in the organization of the laboring force, and in its general direction & control, so as to secure the most effective & economical distribution, & use of the same.

Resp'y. Yr obt Servt.

(Signed) John Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 31st 1863.

Col. A. B. Moore, Aid-de-Camp, Choctaw-Bluff.

Sir; I am, to-day, in rec't of your letter, of 29th inst. from Mobile, in relation to the Settlement of accounts with the Engineer Department, and with the owners of Slaves impressed for work on River obstructions. Your suggestions are fully approved, & I enclose, herein, a letter to Gen. Leadbetter, requesting, & authorizing him to pay-over to you, as the Agent of the State, the amounts due the owners of the Slaves, from the time they were turned-over, by the State, to the Engineer department. My desire is, that when the accounts shall have been adjusted, you visit the different Counties, and pay the owners of the Slaves, in full. Adjutant-Gen. Goldthwaite is now preparing Pay-Rolls, adapted to these Settlements, which will be ready, by the time they will be needed. &. My letter of yesterday will advise you of the correspondence recently had with Gen. Leadbetter, as to the river defenses. No proposition, to abandon Choctaw Bluff, has been submitted, & I hope, will not be suggested, as I should not entertain such a proposition for a moment. &. Capt. Fry, of Steamer Ella, was in, to-day, (I shall send your letters by him) and intimated to the Adjutant-General, that he ought to have $.50 - a-day for the use of his boat. You will have to certify the length of time the boat was in Service, & if you can adjust the controversy upon Reasonable terms, I prefer that you do so, to save any controversy. If the owners, however, insist upon such an unreasonable charge, it may be best to keep the boat - pay the value of her at the time of assessment - and sell her again. This matter is submitted for your consideration and action, as you may deem just & proper in the premises.

Resp'y. Yr obt Servt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 31st, 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter. Chief of Engineer Department, Mobile.

Sir; Col. A. B. Moore is authorized to receive the several amounts due by the Engineer Department, & which may, hereafter, become due to the owners of Slaves, teams, & tools employed on the defensive works, on the Alabama, & Tombigbee Rivers, from the time the property was turned-over, by the State-Authorities to your Department. When the accounts are adjusted at your office, and the amounts paid-over to Col. Moore, he will be deputed to visit the various Counties, & Settle with the parties, to whom the Monies may be due, in full, for their claims against the State, & the Confederacy.

Respectfully.

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 31st 1863.

His Excn Z. B. Vance, Gov of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Sir; The Quarter-Master of the University of Alabama has just returned from a trip through the Seaboard States, for the purpose of purchasing Stores for the Corps of Cadets, without success, in procuring Cloths for Uniforms. &. Understanding, from him, that the Factories in your State are under contract with or control of the State Authorities, I respectfully request that, if consistent with previous arrangements — or the necessities of your own Supply, you would grant permission to Col. L. le Garland, Superintendent of the Alabama University Corps of Cadets, to contract with the "Mountain-Island Factory", to manufacture twelve hundred (1200) Yards of grey Cassimere, for Cadet Uniforms. &. I know of No Factory — nearer than your own State, where such goods are manufactured, and your compliance will be esteemed as a favor to the State of Alabama, to be reciprocated, when opportunity may offer, by

Your obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. March 31st, 1863.

Capt. E. Farrand, Selma, Ala.

Sir, I enclose you, herein, copy of a letter, received by me, under date of the 28th inst., from Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineer Department, at Mobile, and, also, a copy of my reply thereto, under date of 30th inst; to which I invite your attention. &. The Engineer-Department has, at last — you will see — proposed to take upon itself, the duty, & responsibility of our river-defenses, as well in providing obstructions in the waters, as batteries upon the banks. You are not unadvised of the deep anxieties, upon these subjects, felt by the State Authorities, & the many obstacles, with which we have been forced to contend, in reaching the advanced point, already attained. The frankness & cordiality with which you have responded to my applications, to lend the State the benefit of your Experience & Skill, have invited, from this Department, the utmost freedom of intercourse; & in this way, you have known, & Sympathized with us, in all our undertakings for the defense of the State. &. We have, likewise, known, & Sympathized with you in the many disappointments and Trials which you have had to encounter, as well as in certain Collisions of opinion — Sometimes, delicate in their nature, which must have been, more-or-less, disagreable to you. In view of the fact, that the duty of Constructing these works, of right, is devolved upon the Engineers of the Military Department, & to relieve the State Authorities of the further responsibility of their construction, under circumstances So embarrassing, I have accepted the proposal of Gen. Leadbetter, & directed that the whole Matter, with all the Materials collected for the works, be turned over to him. In pursuing this course, I have the Satisfaction to believe, that it will be agreable to you, to be relieved from further labors, & complications, in an undertaking which has proved to be So annoying to you, & So slow in progress, & So difficult of achievement. &. I beg to assure you of the gratification afforded me by your disinterested & unselfish patriotism, & of the deep Sense of obligation, under which you have placed me, by your zealous assistance, in an hour of So much peril to our beloved State. With high Considerations of regard, I am, &c.,

Respectfully, Yr obt Servt. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 1st 1863.

To the Several Steamboats, navigating the Ala. & Tombigbee rivers, & the R. Road Companies in the State of Alabama. &. A "Supply-Association" having been formed at Selma, Ala. having, for its object, the furnishing destitute families of Dallas — & other adjoining Counties, with articles of food, gratuitously, and at moderate prices, as their several circumstances may Suggest to be prudent & proper, & Wm. M. Byrd being the Chairman of the Executive Comm. of Said association, I do, hereby, respectfully, that you grant to Said Association, prompt transportation, at reasonable rates, for the articles of food, purchased — & distributed by it, in order that its benevolent intentions may be fully carried out, & the wants of the destitute relieved. &. And I respectfully commend the association to your good Offices, to further, as may be in your power, its work of Charity.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, April 1st, 1863.

Col. Wm. M. Byrd, Selma.

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of the 28th ult., advising me of the organization and plans of the "Supply-Association" at Selma of which you are chairman, & asking my assistance to procure transportation for the Co. & to sell the Co. a monthly supply of one hundred Sacks of Salt, from the State-Salt-works. In reply, I have to inform you, that I heartily approve the objects of the association, & that it will afford me sincere pleasure to aid in their accomplishment by any means at my command. There is no power or authority conferred on me over the R. Roads & Steamboats, except to impress their use, when needed for the public defense. So far as accommodation to your enterprize is concerned, I will not doubt that all Agents of Transportation will readily serve the association, in forwarding their freights promptly, & at reasonable rates. Entertaining this belief, I enclose you an official note, addressed to them, urging & requesting them to do so. & I enclose you copies of the "Salt-acts" passed by the Legislature, at its last Session, directing the mode of Salt-distribution, from which you will see, that I have not the discretion to furnish the Salt to the association, as requested. The distribution of the State-Salt, under these acts, has been devolved upon Gen. D. E. Green, 2r-Mr-Gen. of the State at Mobile.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Ser't (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 2d 1863.

Gen. Duff. C. Green, 2r-Mr-Gen. Mobile.

Sir; I have rec'd a letter from Mr Winbourne, enquiring as to construction of Salt-Contract with Col. Jos. H. Bradford, as to liability of the State, previous to demand by the agent. The option is with the State as to the demand & receipt; & the Salt is at the risk of the Contractors until the State makes its demand, & the Contractors tender, under that demand. You will please notify Mr Winbourne of this Construction.

Very Resp'y,
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 4th, 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of the Engineer-department; Mobile.

Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge, rec't of your favor of 2d April, & in reply, beg to inform you, that I will remit $. 50.000, on Tuesday next, by Express Co. to the Committee of Safety, in Mobile, & before the close of next week, $. 50.000 additional, which they will advance, if needed, in aid of your Department. It is gratifying to me that the State has been able to accommodate the Engineer Department, in this respect, & assuring you of my disposition to co-operate with, & aid, your patriotic labors in every way in my power, I am, Respectfully, Your obt Ser't,
(Signed) Jn° G. Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 4th, 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq., Chairman, Ex. Comm. Mobile;

Sir; I enclose you copy of a letter written by me, to-day, to Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, in reply to a communication from him, under date of the 2d inst. In his letter after explaining the embarrassments of his Department, for want of funds, & expressing his obligations for the advances made by the State, he says "under these circumstances, I feel compelled to ask, of Your Excellency, a further temporary loan of $. 50.000, or $. 100.000, with the assurance that it shall be promptly repaid, the moment the funds, for Engineer Service, shall become available!"

Remittances, as stated, in my letter to Gen. Leadbetter, will be made, next week, by express, in State-change-Bills, which, I presume, will be very acceptable in your city. The largest amount will be sent in $. 1s bills, & your Treasurer can distribute them for the accommodation of the City. The Express charges will be paid by your Treasurer on receipt of the funds, & entered in his account.

Respectfully,
Yours,
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.
Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, April 4th, 1863

Gen. A. W. Mercer, Comm'd'g, Savannah, Geo.

Sir; I respectfully ask your consideration of the enclosed letter from Dickson, Nelson & Co. Contractors for the manufacture of arms for the State of Alabama, in relation to the conscription & enrollment, for duty, in Co. D. 29th, Geo. Regiment of James M. Wright. & These gentlemen have a large contract with this State for the manufacture of Mississippi rifles; & certain workmen designated by them, were detailed for duty with them, upon a special application for this department. & As competent & skilled workmen are difficult to obtain - I trust to your courtesy & sense of justice, to cause Mr Wright to be returned to his employment, under the detail made heretofore, by the Order of the War-Department.

Very Respy, Yr obt Servt,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, April 4th 1863

N. A. V. Brown, Esq, Solicitor of 3d Judicial Circuit, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sir; I respectfully refer to you, for immediate action, the letter of Maj W. J. Walthall Commanding Camp of Instruction, at Talladega, a copy of which is enclosed. & I am informed by Maj W. that the offence of Murder, for which Mr Franklin, is under arrest, was committed in Tuskaloosa Co. & as it was, at first, supposed to be cognizable by the Military Authorities, he was turned over to their custody. The Secretary of War has decided that it is a case for trial by the State-Courts, & orders his release, unless he is demanded for State-Trial. Under these orders, Maj. Walthall has detained him, to await the action of the Circuit-Court of Tuscaloosa Co. & If a bill has been found, you will have the proper order forwarded, for his removal from Talladega to Tuscaloosa; & if there is no bill, please take such steps - by complaint & warrant or otherwise, as may secure his proper detention, or his release, & advise Maj Walthall, accordingly.

Very Respy, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 4th, 1863.

Maj. W. J. Walthall, Comm'g Co. Talladega, Ala.

Sir; I have rec'd your communication, in relation to the case of William Franklin under arrest for murder, at Talladega; & have referred the same to the Solicitor of the 3d Circuit, for his immediate action. The delay in this matter, on part of the Judicial Authorities, is a matter of surprize & regret; but I trust there will be no farther delay. Very Respy, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

indorsed to here 4th 1863

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 4th 1863

Maj. Jno B. Appling, Franklin, Ala.

Sir; Your lot of meat, was, this day, rec'd & the Quarter-Master, finding a portion damaged, under my direction, called a Survey of Grocery-Merchants of this City who report as follows. &. "We, the undersigned, were called in to examine a lot of Bacon, by Col. W. R. Pickett - said bacon was said to belong, to Jno B. Appling, & we find it damaged to the extent of 15 p.c.t.

(Signed) Berry Tatum, — B. A. Ellberry, — & G. L. Scovell.

Capt. James McCrae, being present in the City, I requested him to be present, at the Survey, that he might give you an account of the Survey, & the condition of the meat; he kindly consented, & was present. &. On re-weighing here, the amount short is one hundred & Seventy Seven lbs. &. according to the report of the Quarter-Master, & Capt. McCrae, the damage appears to be confined to one lot of Small meat. &. Under these circumstances, I await your directions, whether to take the Sound meat for the State, under the contract, & Sell the damaged on your account; or to place the whole lot in the hands of one of our Commission-Merchants, and obtain the best price for the whole, for your benefit. I am satisfied that the condition of the meat is not from your fault; but, that, in purchasing, you have got, in the lot, some that was imperfectly cured.

Please advise me without delay.

Respy, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 6th, 1863.

D. Wheeler, Esq., Treasurer of the Comm. of Safety, Mobile.

Sir; As advised in a letter to P. Hamilton, Esq., Chairman of the Executive Comm. I forward, by Express Co. to you, Fifty thousand dollars, in State-Change bills. It would be out of the power of the Treasurer to remit, at once, in any other funds; and, from the demand, here, for Change-bills, I have thought it would, probably, suit the convenience of your people, & facilitate the payments for labor, to have this amount deposited at Mobile. By depositing the sum in your Banks-subject to your order, they could make the Exchanges with their Customers, & citizens who needed Small Bills, & pay you in such amounts as the necessities of the works might require. You will pay the Express charges, & enter the same in your a/c. Another remittance of the same amount, will be made towards the last of this week. Please acknowledge rec't to this Department, for filing with the Treasurer.

Very Respfy, Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 6th, 1863.

Col. L. P. Garland, Superintendent Corps of Cadets, University of Alabama.

Sir; Rev^d C. A. Sturges, of Carlowville, Dallas Co. Ala. desires to enter his youngest Son, at the University. He has two Sons-now-in the Confederate Service. The Status of Mr Sturges, & his claims upon our indulgence, justify me, in my opinion, in making, his application an exceptional one. You will therefore receive his son into the Corps, & assign him to some appropriate duties for the remainder of the present term; or, after his admission, extend him a furlough, until the Commencement of the next term as your discretion, & the good of the Corps may determine to be most expedient.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, April 6th, 1863.

Rev^d C. A. Sturges, Carlowville,

My dear Sir; I am, to day, in rec't of your favor of 2^d inst. Dr Garland addressed me upon the expediency of issuing Commissions to Cadets, for the Corps to be organized in July. After considering the proposition, I wrote Dr Garland, that I deemed it most expedient to adhere to the former regulations on the subject. &. There is no post in the State Service, to which I could assign your Son now. Under these circumstances, I see no way open to gratify your natural desire, but to make your Son's case an exceptional one. The facts stated in your letter, in connection with your station, furnish sufficient justification, in my own mind, for such an order, & I enclose one, herein, appropriate to his case.

Very Resp'y, & truly, Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 6th, 1863.

Col. Charles Ketchum, Mobile,

Sir; The case of private-Sidney Hadley, of Capt. Ben Lane Posey's Co. of your Regiment, has been represented to me, as possessing some extenuating circumstances, to which, it may be proper for me to call your attention, with a view to the exercise of such clemency, as it may be in your power to use. He enlisted, as I learn, under the age of eighteen years-not having, yet, reached that age-without the consent of his mother, who is now, a resident of this city, in indigent circumstances, & unable to make sufficient support for herself & her little children; her husband, the Step-father of her children, being a charge upon her, in consequence of having lost an arm, in the Confederate Service, at Lowmtree, Kentucky, & She feeling the want of the labors of her Son, to assist in the support of her family. I know that there is no justification for desertion, but, under the circumstances of his enlistment, & the distressed condition of his mother, I trust that all that is desirable may be attained, & still severity of punishment avoided.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Gov of Ala.

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Executive Department;
(Montgomery), Ala. April 7th, 1863.

His Excel.y Z. Vance, Governor of N. Carolina, Raleigh.

Sir; I have the honour to acknowledge the rec.t of your favor of 5th inst. & in reply to state that previous to the session of 1862, Justices of the Peace, were, by the Military Code of Alabama, exempt from Militia duty, but, by an act, approved Dec.br 1862, they were declared "subject to Militia-service, unless-physically- or Mentally- disqualified for such Service." Since the approval of this act, Justices of the Peace, in the State of Alabama, have been enrolled for Confederate Service, when within the Conscript ages.

Very Resp.y Your obt Serv.t
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov.r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. April 7th 1863

His Excel.y M. L. Bonham, Gov.r of So. Carolina, Columbia.

Sir; Mrs M. W. Garrison, of this City, some months since, in view of the wants of this Section, forwarded, to Virginia & N. Carolina, a lot of Sugar which he exchanged, there, for wheat, had the same manufactured into flour. After many delays, he procured transportation for from 90 to 100 barrels which, under authority of the laws of your State, was stopped, in transitu, at Charlotte junction. Mr Garrison, at the commencement of the War, was in a prosperous business, in the City of New York, which he abandoned for a Southern home; & since that time, has pursued his regular occupation of Merchant and dealer, in this city, avoiding, so far as I am able to ascertain, Speculation & forestalling, & placing his goods upon the Market, at regular market prices. As the goods were in transitu- the result of a fair exchange of the necessaries of life- & intended for a Market deficient in a Supply of flour, I trust it may be in your power, to order their release. They are now, in charge of Mr L. Simpson, at Columbia.

Resp.y, Yr. obt Serv.t
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov.r of Ala

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 8th, 1863.

His Excellency, F. B. Vance, Governor of N. Carolina, Raleigh.

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge the rec.t of your letter, of the 4th inst, declining to give an order for cloth to be manufactured, in your State, for uniforms for Cadets of the University, & freely, admit the propriety of your decision, in view of the important object to be attained, in clothing the troops of N. Carolina

Very Resp.y, Yr obt Serv.t.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov.r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala, April 8th, 1863

Gen. D. H. Greene, 2n- Mr Gen. Mobile.

Sir; In reply to your letter of 6th inst, I have to say, that, upon the report made by Gen. Goldthwaite, on his return from Mobile some Weeks since, and my own observation & reflection, My Mind was inclining to adopt the course suggested in your letter. The facts, now stated by you, remove all doubts as to the propriety of it; and the interests of the State will, I am persuaded, justify it. You will, therefore, retain Workmen sufficient to complete the unfinished work on hand, & then close up your Machine Shops. The arms, which will be available for use, have packed properly, & Stored securely.

I think it probable, that it will be best to Sell the machinery, tools &c to the best advantage. This matter, however, I submit to your discretion, though I recommend a Sale. The Contract for a thousand gun-barrels, I hope you may rescind: Adjust that matter as best you can. The Contracts- which I made- last year for arms, have not yet furnished any- but I expect deliveries to begin in a few Weeks. These Sources will, probably Supply all we may require. Reduce all expenses of your department as much as possible.

Respectfully, Yours,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 8th, 1863

Capt. D. A. Winbourne, A. Q. M. care of Duff Green & Co. Vicksburg, Miss.

Sir; I am, to day, in receipt of your letter of 6th inst. for which am obliged. I rec'd on the 2 inst, your dispatch from Vicksburg, in these words—"Can make no monied arrangements here—think it doubtful at Jackson. If I fail, what shall I do? answer at Jackson." I answered, by telegraph, to Jackson, on the 3d in these words, "Did Gen. Green furnish you with a letter of credit from Bank of Mobile? & will it not be available? Answer and wait at Jackson, for further orders." Your failure to return to Jackson explains why I had not heard from you until the receipt of the letter now before me. There is no objection to your sojourn at Vicksburg, with the 30th Alabama Regiment, as reported by you, & your suggestions—as to your plans—are approved. You will reply, however, by letter, to the questions in the above dispatch, sent to you at Jackson. E. I met with Mr Streety, one of the partners of Col. Bradford, the other day, just through from New-Iberia; and he is quite hopeful. The Co. had raised 300.000 lbs Salt; and are trying to get it through. I hope they may be successful. E. I agree with you, that a change must occur in our Military Status, before long, & I trust that the God of Battles will give us the Victory. E. Let me hear from you again, soon, & while in the proximity of the Enemy, give me any information, of interest, you may obtain.

Resp'y, Your obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. April 9th, 1863.

Col. P. Hamilton, aid de camp, Mobile,

Sir; I enclose you, herein, a copy of a letter, just received from the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, in reply to my communication to him of the 28th Ult. in relation to the removal, by the British Government, of Mr Magie, from the Consular office, at Mobile. You will observe, that he asks to be furnished with evidence, in an authentic form containing the facts stated, by Col. Forsyth, in his article in the Mobile Advertiser & Register; which, in my letter to Mr Benjamin, were assumed to be true. I hope it may be in your power to obtain the certificates, or proofs of these facts, & forward them to me. E. I have heard that the French Consul, in Mobile, is now performing the duty of Consular Agent for Great Britain. Information on this matter, also, is desired, with any particulars which you may be able to communicate.

Resp'y, Y'r obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter.

N. B. I leave to-morrow—for Eufaula, & my Plantation on the Chattahoochee, to be absent some ten or twelve days. Gen. Goldthwaite will attend to the office, in my absence. J. G. S.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 9th, 1863.

Col. Jno. T. Morgan, Commandant of Conscripts for Alabama, Head-quarters, Talladega, Ala.

Sir; I respectfully, refer to your consideration, the enclosed application, (in duplicate) for detail of Dudley D. Merrill, Now in Provost-guard, at Selma, under orders of Maj. Chambliss. E. I need not urge upon you the importance of the Manufacture—for which this detail is requested—to the people & Soldiers of Alabama. E. This establishment has been set in operation by the State, it owning one half interest: and we expect to have, in operation, by the 1st of July, six machines, with a capacity of 1000 pair per week, making our own wire from Alabama-iron. The great Scarcity of competent mechanics, induces me to ask this detail.

Very Respectfully, (Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, April 9th, 1863.

Col. John T. Morgan, Commandant of Conscripts for Alabama, Head-quarters, Talladega, Ala.

Sir; Your letter, of the 3d inst, is rec'd. for which I am obliged. Differing with you in opinion upon the liability of "County Superintendents of Education" to enrollment, under the Conscript act, I have addressed a letter on the Subject, to the Sec'y of War. And as the views presented may not have occurred to you, I have deemed it proper to submit the letter to your examination, before sending it on to Richmond. If, upon a reconsideration, you agree with me in my construction of the Conscript act, you need not, necessarily, forward the letter to the Secretary of War, as you have the discretion to suspend the enrollment of the State-Officers enumerated by me. Should you adhere to your decision, then you will please forward the letter.

Resp'y,
Your obt Serv't
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter.
Gov^r of Ala.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 9th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I, herewith, hand you a copy of a letter, this day received from Col. Jno. T. Morgan, Commandant of Conscripts, in the State of Alabama. By this letter is presented the question, whether the "County Superintendents of Education" are liable to enrollment, as Conscripts. Col. Morgan thinks they are. I differ with him in opinion, & refer the question for your examination. It is an important question, as its decision will, materially, affect the State-administration, & fix the Status of a large number of officers, engaged in the civil department of the State Government. The Military Code of Alabama was revised, & re-adopted in 1851. It was adopted as a peace-establishment, as at that time, no expectation nor apprehension of war was entertained; & should, therefore, be regarded as an internal provision, purely; & no construction should be placed upon it, which cannot be fairly, said to be within the purpose or intention of the State-Legislature which adopted it. I enclose you an extract from the Code, which contains all the provisions in it applicable to the question under consideration. You will see that "the Militia of the State of the State of Alabama shall consist of each & every free, able-bodied, white male citizen, resident therein, who is, or shall be of the age of eighteen years & under the age of forty-five years," except those hereinafter named". The 2d Sec. of the 2d chapt. enumerates the exceptions-or exemptions." County Superintendents of Education" are not enumerated in this list of exceptions-or exemptions. Congress, in the Conscript-act, has exempted the Legislative, Judicial & Executive officers of the States, "except such State-officers as are, or may be declared liable to Militia duty." Now, as "County Superintendents of Education" are Militia-Men, under the Military Code of Alabama, & are, by that Code, not exempted from Militia duty in the State, it is, plausibly, urged that they are liable to enrollment under the Conscript-law. If they are, then all the following-named officers of the State are liable to enrollment, to-wit; The Secretary of State, the Comptroller of public accounts, State Treasurer, attorney-General, Solicitors of all the Judicial Circuits, Reporter, & Marshall of the Supreme Court, County-Sheriffs, Jailors, & Coroners, County-Surveyors, Tax-assessors & Collectors, Members of the State-Legislature, Registers, & receivers of the Land-offices, & the State Superintendent of Education. You will find none of these officers enumerated in the list of Exemptions. You will agree with me, I think, that to take all these officers away from the State, & put them in the Army, would be, virtually, to break-up, & destroy, the State-organization, & you will, further, agree with me, I doubt not, without controversy, that Congress possesses no power to do such a thing; & that, in passing the Conscript act, did not intend to accomplish such a result. The error, into which Col. Morgan has fallen, I suppose, is in assuming that the provisions in the Military Code to be a Legislative declaration that these State-officers are liable to Militia duty, within the meaning & intent of the Conscript-act. Congress had no power to encroach upon State-Organization, & therefore, discreetly disclaimed it by an express exemption of all the Legislative, Judicial & Executive officers of the States. But, inasmuch as some of these officers might not, in the judgement of the States, be needed at home, and as they might be voluntarily surrendered for the common Military defense, Congress excepted from the class of exemptions, such State-officers, as the States themselves should declare amenable to military duty. This declaration could be made only by the Legislatures of the States affirming the liability of the particular officers-Ex nomine. The general provision in the Military Code of Alabama, adopted long years ago, with exclusive reference to her own internal convenience, which embraces, as a Militia-man, every white Male citizen except certain State officers, therein Mentioned, ought not and cannot, fairly, now be held to be a Legislative declaration, such as Congress contemplated. That all the State-officers, not enumerated should be liable to military service in the armies of the Confederacy. In 1851, when this Code was adopted, there were no such officers, as State- & County Superintendents of Education, nor State-Commissioner, nor Registers nor Receivers of the Land-offices. These offices have been created by Subsequent legislation. As to them there has been no Legislative declaration, in any Shape or form. In this connection, I will remind you that the Legislature of Alabama, at its last Session, removed the exemption in the Military Code, in favor of "Justices of the Peace", and, by an affirmative act, declared them liable to Militia duty. I enclose you, herewith, a copy of the act. You will see that it, also, embraces other State-officers; to-wit, Constables, & Notaries public. If you will now refer to the Military Code of the State, you will see that neither Constables, nor Notaries public are enumerated among the Exemptions. If Col. Morgan's construction be correct, these officers were already liable to Conscription, & no further State-Legislation was required to authorize their enrollment, as ~~conscripts under the Act of Congress~~. Such, however, was not the view entertained by the Legislature, & to authorize their enrollment as Conscripts, under the Act of Congress, they deemed it necessary to declare their liability to Militia duty, by an affirmative Legislative act, enumerating the officers. The word "declared", in the Conscript-act, has a Signification which must be ascertained by reference to the powers of Congress & the rights of the States.

as well as the meaning & intention of Congress, apparent in the use of the words. And if in its interpretation, any doubt should arise, as to its true signification in any given case, the doubt should determine the Controversy in favor of the State organization, which has the power, through its Legislature, to relieve the difficulty, by an express declaration.

For these reasons, I have deemed it My duty to Notify you of My dissent from the decision made by Col. Morgan, & have to ask, that you will direct a suspension of the enrollment or the exemption of all Legislative, Judicial, & Executive officers, in this State, who may not have been declared, by affirmative Legislation, liable, as such officers, to Military duty in the State of Alabama.

Very Resp'y Yr Obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov° of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 9th, 1863.

Col. S. B. Pickens, & Capts McNeely, A. M. Coy, & Nicholson, Comm: 12th Ala. Vol. Reg't
Gent= I have rec'd by the hands of Lieut Macon, "the tattered banner" of your Regiment; & often flung "victorious to the "breeze," the sight of which prompts Memories of noble deeds, & of the "gallant dead." & Nobly have the Sons of Alabama illustrated her character, & adorned her history, upon every field of renown; & gallantly have they borne their part in the struggle for their Country's independence. But the Scene of triumph is saddened by the memories of the slain — the notes of victory tempered with the wail of mourning. Your gift will ever speak of a Jones, a Gayle, a Bucker, gallant, gifted, & lamented, yet honored & remembered &. Your flag shall have its place, in the archives of the State: there, by its Memories of the noble deeds of the gallant 12th, & its heroic dead, to inspire, to higher resolutions of virtue, present & future generations of Alabamians.

With Sentiments of high regard, for you, individually, & admiration for the deeds of your Command, I am, Very Resp'y Yr ob't Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov° of Ala

ind? to here 10th April '63

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 23°, 1863.

Hon. Judge of Probate, Washington Co. at St. Stephens.
Sir:

The Governor feels that it is his duty to make a requisition on Washington County for Sixty Slaves, to complete the fortifications at Mobile & directs me to request you to consult with the Sheriff and Clerk of the Circuit Court, & send him, if possible, by return mail, the names of three gentlemen, to act as impressment agents, for your County, under the act of the last Session, a copy of which I enclose. & The gentlemen selected should be firm, discreet, & just men; prompt in action, who will do their duty, without favor to any one. & With the names, the Governor will thank you, to give him, also the Post offices of each. Very resp'y Yr Obt Serv't
Jas Puladdel, Sec'y to the Gov.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 24th 1863.

Maj Gen. S. B. Buckner, Head-quarters, Mobile, Ala.
Sir, This will be handed you by Mr Johnson — the Agent of the Slaveholders of Chambers Co. & duly authorised by them to take charge of the Slaves impressed from that Co. under your requisition of 24th ult. & return them to their owners. The Co referred to was among the first to respond to that requisition, & the returns made to this Department show, that but three of the Slaves were rejected. In the orders given for their impressment, the owners were assured by me that their Slaves would not be retained longer than Sixty days after their arrival in Mobile, & they were impressed for that term. Good faith, on My part, as well as the public interests, so far as obtaining Slave labor for the future, demand that the pledge, thus given, should be faithfully maintained. & The term for which they were impressed, will expire on the 27th inst. & on that day, I have, respectfully, to request that you will have these Slaves discharged, & turned over to Mr Johnson.

Very Respectfully
Yr ob't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery. Ala. April 25th 1863.

Hon. Robert Ould, Commissioner of C.S.A. Richmond, Va.

Sir, I beg leave to hand you, herewith, a copy of a letter, rec'd recently in this City, by Mrs Mefford, from her husband, who was, at its date - the 24th Jan'y last - confined in prison, in Washington. The letter explains the circumstances of his arrest. His family are becoming uneasy about his safety, not having any further information from him. May I trouble you to note his case, & assist in procuring his release & return.

Resp'y, Yr obt Servant.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department

Montgomery. Ala. April 25th 1863.

Hon. John E. Moore, Tullahoma. Tenn:

My dear Sir; I am in receipt of your letter, of the 20th inst. tendering your resignation, as Judge of the 4th Judicial Circuit of the State of Alabama, in order that you may accept an appointment, tendered you by the President, as "Presiding Judge of one of the Military Courts" connected with the Army. &c. In accepting your resignation, I must express regret I feel, that the public necessity has, temporarily, withdrawn from the service of the State, a Judicial officer, who was so highly esteemed for his integrity, & impartial administration. I sincerely trust that your health may be preserved, & that, in due time, you may return to your home, redeemed from the ruthless hands of robbers & plunderers, who are, now seeking to delolate our State.

Very truly, Yours,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. April 25th 1863.

Messrs McClung & Jaques. Saltville, Va.

Gentlemen; A temporary absence from the Capitol has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 18th inst. In view of the facts stated by you, the increase in the prices of wood, labor, &c. owing, in a great degree, to depreciation in our Confederate currency, I admit the justice of your claim for an increase of price for the Salt bing manufactured by you, for the State of Ala. & am sure that the good people of this State will not be averse from allowing you a just compensation for the delivery of a Commodity, so essential to them. &c. The Contract made with you, last year, was, by me, reported to the Legislature of this State, at its last Session, & by that body was ratified & confirmed. I have not, therefore, the power to alter or change that Contract; but the Act passed by the Legislature authorizes me to make other Contracts, & by the terms of the Contract made with you, I have the right to terminate it, at any time, after the delivery of 100.000 bushels of Salt. Of course, with your assent, I can terminate it before the delivery of that quantity. In order, therefore, to accommodate the matter, upon a just & fair basis, I propose that we terminate the old Contract, on the last day of March, 1863. - the New Contract - commencing on the 1st day of April, 1863, & embracing the same provisions as the old one, except the following modifications; to-wit: the price to be paid by the State of Alabama, shall be $2.50 per bushel, the payment to be made in Confederate Treasury notes.

Awaiting your reply, I am, Yr obt Serv't.

Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. April 27th 1863.

R. B. Kyle, Esq. Salt-agent K. Gadsden, Ala. Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23d inst. & to approve the report, & the Suggestions therein Contained. &c. In giving instructions to sell at cost & charges, it was not intended, when fractions or uneven numbers were the result, to confine Agents so, that loss would accrue to them or the State, but to approach the figures as closely as possible, and let the Agent so use his discretion, as to fractions, as to save the State always - & fully. It is not the policy of the State to Speculate upon the people. Nor can the people reasonably expect the State to be the loser, in its efforts to Supply them with the absolute necessaries of life. I am pleased to see that you take a practical view of the Subject.

Very Resp'y

Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 28th, 1863.

Col. P. Hamilton, A. D. C. Mobile.

Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge rec't of your communication of the 22d inst. enclosing copies of correspondence, in relation to the shipment of Corn, from Mobile, through James Magee, Esq late British Consul at Mobile; for all which I am duly obliged.

Resp'y, Yr ob't Serv't;
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, April 28th, 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq: Sec'y Exec'e Comm: Mobile.

Sir, Your letter of the 25th inst: explaining the further embarrassments of the Engineer Department of the C. S. Army at Mobile, came safely to hand. I have to-day delivered to the Express Co. Fifty Thousand Dollars to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Comm: of Safety for Mobile, which, I hope, may arrive in due season; and I will send forward an additional remittance, if desired, by the first of next week.

Resp'y, Yr ob't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, April 28th, 1863.

Gen'l D. C. Green, Ass't Adj't Gen. Mobile

Sir; I returned to this city on Friday Evening last, after a fortnight's absence; which accounts for the delay in my reply to your several communications, of recent date. In yours of the 10th inst: you ask, "Do I not understand you to give me full power to use my discretion as to Sale?" I answer, Yes; and your suggestions as to Sales, are approved. You say, also "I sincerely hope that Gen Goldthwaite's report was not to my prejudice". It gives me pleasure to disabuse your mind of any suspicions on that point. The fact is, Gen'l Goldthwaite made no official report; & the use of the word "report" by me, in my previous letter, had reference to the conversation I had with him, on his return from Mobile, in which we discussed the question, as to the advantages of continuing or closing the Machine-Shops. This question, I had been revolving, in my own mind, for some time. Gen. Goldthwaite — as well as — I, was pleased at the style of the work, and the general arrangement & system adopted by you; but we concurred in opinion, that the expenses of the establishment were approaching a point, which would hardly justify continued operation. And when I rec'd your letter, expressing a similar opinion, I was then satisfied that it was most expedient to close-up the Shops at once.

Resp'y; Yr ob't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 28th, 1863.

To his Excellency, Thomas C. Reynolds, Governor of Missouri,

Sir; I have the pleasure to report to you, that the Southern Express-Company delivered, at this Capitol-to-day, three boxes, marked "Missouri State-Papers," which I have carefully stored in one of our fire-proof Vaults, in the State-House. They shall be duly preserved, according to your request, & delivered only upon the order of the Governor of Missouri. The advices contained in your letter, as to the condition & prospect of affairs in Arkansas & Missouri, are very gratifying. Accept the assurances that the people of Alabama are deeply sympathize with their fellow-citizens in those States; and will not lay down their arms, until the Southern Confederacy, in all its length, & breadth, is acknowledged & respected, by the United States, & the civilized World.

With high considerations of regard, I am, resp'y.
Your ob't Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 28th, 1863.

Col. John T. Morgan; Head-Quarters, Talladega, Ala.

Dear Colonel; I returned, a day or two since, to the Capitol, after a fortnight's absence at my old home, & find your letter, of the 15th inst; in relation to the enrollment of certain civil officers, in this state, awaiting my attention. While I do not agree with you fully, I am gratified to find that the difference in our construction is so slight, as to make little practical difference, in results. I will cheerfully acquiesce in the decision which may be made by the Secretary of War, as to the liability to conscription of that class of officers which you have named for his consideration.

Respectfully, Your obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 28th, 1863.

Col. John T. Morgan, Comm'r of Conscripts for Ala. Head-Quarters, Talladega.

Sir; In reply to yours communication of 15th inst. asking my interpretation of the act of 9th Dec'r 1862, passed by the Legislature of Ala. amendatory of the act of 5th of Feb'y 1856, "to secure subordination among Slaves, &c." I have to inform you, that a bill was introduced into the Gen'l Assembly, to repeal the act of 5th Feb'y 1856. It passed the Senate, I think, but, unfortunately, failed in the House, and the act of the 9th Dec'r 1862, was adopted, in lieu of the repealing act. There was a good deal of discussion pending the bill, and a majority of the House was opposed to a repealing clause. Hence it was that the Gen'l Assembly adopted the act, in the singular phraseology used — the substance & idea of which is, that there should be some State law as to police on plantations; that the the law of Ala. as required a White man on every place, where there were over six hands, only, the Law should not be repealed by the Gen'l Assembly, but, in the event, Congress should, thereafter, in any respect, change the Exemption-law, passed by that body, such change should operate as an amendment of the State-law, by a substitution of twenty Hands in lieu of six. In other words, on the adjournment of the Legislature, the Law stood as they found it — & stands so still — unless Congress has, in some respects — no matter what — altered, or changed that part of the Exemption-law, applicable to this matter. This form of legislation is unprecedented, perhaps, and the shape, in which the act was adopted, leaves the Legislative intent in in some obscurity. The view I have presented, is the one which, I think, will strike a Lawyer's mind, seeking for an interpretation of the act, by those rules which apply in construing Statutes.

I regret that the Legislature did not repeal the act of the 5th of Feb'y 1856, & leave the case, just where the act of Congress had placed it — & subject, entirely, to the discretion of Congress, so that the operation of the law might be uniform. It is proper to add, that there was a strong sentiment in favor of the repeal — not of the State law, only, but of the act of Congress, also, exempting Slave-holders, or white persons, on plantations; & it was strongly believed that Congress would repeal or Modify its own action, on this subject; and this belief, in all probability, induced the concurrence in the Bill which our General Assembly adopted. &. I am aware that what I have written, will be of little advantage in guiding the Conscript Bureau to a Satisfactory conclusion; & that, perhaps, the same view have occurred to you. With high personal regard; I am,

Resp'y Y'r obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. April 29th, 1863.

Hon. D. B. Clark, Eutaw, Ala. My dear Sir; I have rec'd and read, with deep emotion, your letter of the 25th inst. tendering your resignation of the office of Chancellor of the Middle Chancery Division of the State of Ala. The long & valuable service rendered by you upon the Chancery Bench, where your learning, skill, impartial & laborious administration, have indelibly impressed the Bar of the State, has linked your name with those honored Predecessors, whose fame shall forever live, in the Memories, and hearts of Alabamians. &. In accepting your resignation, I desire, not only to express my profound regret at the loss, by the State, of an officer of tried integrity & ability, but to assure you of the deep sympathy engendered in my own bosom, by the announcement of that severe dispensation which has occasioned your retirement to private life.

With the highest personal regard & esteem, I remain, most truly your friend, & obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. April 29th, 1863.

Dennis E. Hart. Esq. Brooklyn, Ala. Sir; at the time of the rec't of your letter, complaining of injury to your Stock by troops at Pollard, your letter was enclosed to Maj. Gen. Buckner, commanding at Mobile, with a request that he should investigate the matter, & afford you redress.

I now enclose copies of my letter to the General, & of the correspondence, in reply. If you have had other cattle taken, than those referred to, I have no doubt that Gen. Buckner will take pleasure in affording you full redress, upon your laying, before him, a statement of the facts, with dates, & names of parties. &. He is, in my opinion, an officer who desires to do all his duty, & who will not suffer a citizen to be injured or oppressed by the troops under his command.

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April 29th. 1863.

Arthur Beard, Col. & A. D. C. Huntsville, Ala.

Sir: I enclose you copy of a letter from the Hon. Enoch Aldridge, in relation to illegal distillation, in Blount Co. Like information has reached the Department from other quarters in N. Alabama. I enclose, also, copies of Military orders, upon the same subject, which are still in force, & unrevoked. It was hoped that the action of the last Legislature would have superseded the necessity for the Military order — (N^o 4) but I cannot pass, unheeded, the cries of the wives & children of our Soldiers — Suffering for bread, while Avarice is converting their food into poison to demoralize.

You will see, therefore, that the order is strictly enforced against all violators of the law, who have not the State's license. Mess^rs Douglas, Donnegan, & Co. will furnish you a list of licensed distillers, in their District.

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r & Com^r in Chief.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. April 29th. 1863.

Mr Wm. A. Morriss, Impressment Agent, Suggsville, Clarke Co.

Dear Sir; The delay in the mails & a temporary absence, have prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 10th inst. I am obliged to you for your full & accurate report. The knowledge of your efficiency, as an agent for the State, in carrying out the plans to secure protection for the State, & anxious to have your further co-operation to this end, if it should be needed, induced me to direct the Adjutant Gen. to write you that I declined to accept your resignation at this time. I did this — not because I would not relieve you if you insisted upon it, but because I hoped that, on reconsideration, you would consent to serve further, if occasion required it. I am now in hopes that there will be no further call upon your county, for labor on the fortifications. If I have cherished one hope — more than another, it has been that we might make our public defenses so impregnable, that the Enemy could not take Mobile — or ascend our rivers, to devastate the homes & property of our people. To all who have zealously sustained me, in this great work, I feel under deep obligations, and I am loth to part company with any of my associates, until we can all rejoice in the final consummation of our undertakings. This is what I meant, by declining to accept the resignation of yourself and Mr Wells; and I, again beg you not to press it, yet awhile. &. From what you say, in reference to the account & check Sent you by Gen Goldthwaite, I fear you misapprehended — or misconstrued his meaning. I have invited him to read your letter, & he thinks there is a misapprehension. The Rules for verifying accounts before the auditor of the Treasury Department, require, generally, that vouchers or receipts shall be filed, for sums paid out or advanced; but when these are not preserved, the officer certifies the correctness of the account on honor, & it is ordered to be paid. Strictness, in these particulars, is required, in order to preserve our accounts in such a shape, that the State may receive back, from the Confederate Government, after the War, all the expenditures made by the State, for Military defense. There was no objection to your account, & the amount was intended to be sent you, expecting you to return the account with such vouchers or receipts as you had, and certified on honor — in the usual form as correct, to be filed in the Treasury. You will, therefore, with this explanation, please enclose the papers to me, & I will give them the proper direction. With many thanks to you & Mr Nichols. I am, Dear Sir, Very Respectfully,

Your Obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. April 29th 1863.

Hon. [redacted]ch Aldridge, Brooksville, Ala.

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of 13th inst. and, as the most satisfactory reply I could give, enclose you a copy of a letter to Col. Arthur Beard, my Aid, at Huntsville, who will, I doubt not, take efficient measures to suppress the illegal distillation of which you complain, & which is working so great evils to our people, & the great cause, in which we are engaged. *. I trust that the incoming crop will prove abundant & relieve the distress which you anticipate, if not, wholly, prevent it.

Very Respectfully,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 24th, 1863 (Record deferred, to ap. 30)

Hon. James A. Seddon, Sec'y of War.

Sir; I have just been called upon, by a Widowed Mother, who desires me to present her Son's case, for your decision, under the Conscript Law. This good lady has only two children, a Son & a daughter. The Son, John H. Russell, has resided with her, on the plantation, and superintended the negroes, as overseer of the plantation, for three years. On the 12th April, 1862, he was under 18 years of age. In June, 1862, he became 18, & while the enemy were in occupation of the country. He has remained with his mother, in the capacity of Overseer, ever since, & has been, for three years, & is now, the only White Male adult on the plantation. The plantation is in Madison Co. & has forty or fifty Slaves upon it. I am informed that the enrolling officers, in this section of the State, have general directions, which require the enrollment of all persons under 35 years of age, without regard to the exemptions enumerated in the Act of October last. Whatever decision the Department may have made upon that point, I respectfully submit that, from the facts of this case, young Russell's case cannot be considered without the decision; and, as the case is an exceptional one, I suggest that he be relieved. The only Brother he had, volunteered in the beginning of the War, into a Company of the [illegible]th Regiment, Ala. and died in the service. This boy is the only Stay & [illegible] hope of his afflicted mother, & if you cannot, in harmony with your precedent orders, grant the relief asked, under the Conscript Law, I beg that you will recommend the application for the consideration of the President. I solemnly believe this youth should be allowed to remain with his mother; and the proximity of the enemy to this location, is strongly persuasive of such an order, & I sincerely hope it may be made.

Please reply, under address to me, at the Capitol, at Montgomery.

Respectfully, Yr obt Sert.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Huntsville, Ala. Jan'y 24th, 1863. (Record deferred to ap. 30th)

Col. Arthur C. Beard, Aid-de-Camp, Huntsville, Ala.

Sir; In view of the proximity of the Enemy to N. Alabama, and the exposed condition of this Section of the State, I feel extreme solicitude & an earnest desire to adopt all practicable measures, within the power of the Executive, to afford Security & protection to the people & their property. Chief among these is the organization of Companies of "Home Guards," as recommend in My proclamation of 22 Dec. 1862. You will be expected to urge this recommendation upon all the Counties in this portion of the State, and encourage the organization of Companies as rapidly as possible. As fast as organized they must be reported, with their Muster-rolls, to the Adjutant Gen. At Montgomery. The Companies will be formed into Battalions & a Regiment, if there be a sufficient number, & the field-Officers will be appointed by the Executive. They will be held for the defense of N. Ala. exclusively, & will not be ordered into active Service, unless the State be invaded by the Enemy, or unless they approach such positions, as make invasion probable. It is hoped & believed that the citizens of North-Ala, not in the Confederate Army, & who may be able to render Military service, will not refuse to organize themselves for the protection & defense of their own homes & property. If invasion should occur, & the force of the Enemy should be so great, that he cannot be driven back, the State-Guards will be effective in keeping him in check, & confining him to his encampments, by cutting off his Scouts, and capturing any small bodies of troops which may be sent,

out to depredate upon the country. As the Aid-de-camp of the Executive, in N. Ala. all Troops raised under my Proclamation, will be under your Command, & Subject to your orders - in the absence of orders from the Adjutant Gen.l at head quarters. Enlarged powers & discretion are vested in you, in order to make the Military organization the most effective, in any emergency which may happen, in which prompt communication with head-Quarters may not be practicable.

In view of the possible contingency of active Service, & as a necessary precaution, you are authorized to provide Subsistence, and deposit the Same at some convenient & Safe position from which it may be issued; and, also, when troops are ordered into Service, to assist in procuring, at the expense of the State, the needful Quarter-Master Stores, & transportation. You are, also, authorized to purchase, wheresoever they can be had, arms & munitions of war, & to impress the Same, or provisions - or means of transportation, if it Should be necessary to do So. You are, also, empowered to impress Slaves - teams, & tools, for the construction of Rifle-pits - or other defensive works, & lumber or timber, as occasion may require, & to seize Ferry-boats, & control, by Military Order, the crossings & ferries on the Tennessee River, with a view to the better protection & Safety of the Country; and, generally, to exercise a wide discretion in the organization of Troops, providing for their Subsistence when called into active Service, and in distributing them & posting them, as, most effectually to promote the objects contemplated; reporting your operations to Gen. H. D. Watson, Adjutant & Inspector Gen. of Alabama, at Head-Quarters, at Montgomery. Resp'y. Yr Obt Serv.t

(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov.r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. April 30th. 1863.

Mr W. H. Fells, Gainestown, Ala.

Sir; Your letter of the 18th inst. was, this day, rec'd & the Governor asks me to answer it. & directs me to say, that the negroes will be paid for, from the day they left home, under orders of the impressing agents. If not paid by the Engineer department, it will be done by the State. Time lost by wet-days - Sickness - running-away, & Sunday, will not be paid for. The owner loses this time, when he has his negroes at home, and has them to feed. The Gov.r pays a large price, and feeds the negroes, when unable to work, & on Sunday. If a negro runs-away, the Governor pays the expenses of apprehending him, & returning him to the public works. All your questions are answered.

Very resp'y,

(Signed) A. B. Moore, A. D. C.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. April. 30th. 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War. Richmond.

Sir; I beg, respectfully, to refer to your consideration, for favorable action, the Suggestion of the Convention, recently held at Augusta, Geo. by request of Lt Col Wadley, to expedite the movement of Salt from the works in Virginia, by furnishing, to the East Tenn. & Virginia R. Road, iron, for four miles of track, to Supply those Works with wood.

The great advantage Secured, thereby, in relieving the trains of the Road, would point out the Measure, as not one of mere convenience, but of great economy in transportation and wear of Stock.

Any measure which promises Such advantages to the people of this State commends itself to my favorable regard; and, in view of their great want, & insufficient Supply, & the embarrassments attending the Salt-operations of the past year, arising from deficient transportation, you will pardon me for urging this Subject upon your attention.

I enclose Lt Col. Pollard's report to me upon the Subject, to which I beg to refer you.

Very Respectfully.

(Signed)

Jno Gill Shorter.

Gov.r of Ala

1574.

Executive Department. (Record deferred till May 1st)
Decatur, Ala. Jany 26th, 1863

Capt. Nelson Fennel, of Lawrence, Co., Ala.

Sir; I hand you, herewith, a copy of my Proclamation of the 22d Dec. last, recommending the organization of Companies to constitute a "State-Guard", for Home-protection & defense. It is my earnest desire that you raise such a Company for immediate service, for four months—unless sooner discharged. I desire, also, to invoke your influence & efforts to organize other companies, so as to form a battalion, should the public emergencies demand it. You are authorized, in view of the service anticipated, to purchase Commissary Supplies, & make deposit of the same, at some safe Depôt, from which they may be issued—or drawn, by the State Troops, while in service. I recommend that this precautionary measure be, forthwith, adopted, in order to supply subsistence sufficient for, at least, two hundred & fifty-or three hundred troops for four months' service. You will be furnished with funds for this purpose, & the vouchers for their disbursement, you will duly return to Jno. A. Graham, Auditor of the State-Treasury, at Montgomery. R. Col. Arthur L. Beard, of Marshall County, has been appointed Aid-de-Camp to the Governor—vice, Lieut. Col. Wm M. Lowe, resigned—with the rank of Colonel of Cavalry, and all orders-emanating from him, in such capacity-you will observe & obey. Resp'y, Yr Obt Servt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department; (Record omitted till May 1st)
Decatur, Ala; Jany 26th 1863.

Lieut. P. D. Roddy, Head-quarters, Tuscumbia Alabama.

Sir. I have been informed by Capt. Fennell, recently, in command of a Company of Rangers, in the Service of the State of Alabama, that Capt. Davis, of your command, seized a quantity of arms and ammunition, in possession of Mr John Peck, which were the property of the State, & which had been issued to Capt. Fennell's Command. Anxious to co-operate with you in the patriotic defense of the Country, I might not have been disposed to demand the return of these arms & munitions of war, although the seizure of them by Capt Davis was unauthorized, & should not have been made, without the assent of Capt. Fennell, or myself. But the public safety has induced me to call for the organization of additional Military Companies, for local defense, in N. Ala., & the State will need, immediately, the arms & ammunition, seized by Capt. Davis. I have, therefore, respectfully to request, that you direct their their return to Capt. Fennell, as my authorized agent, to receive them.

Your obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 1st, 1863.

Thos. K. Jones, Esq., Selma.

Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge rec't of your letter of yesterday. The hands engaged in the Government Shops, at Selma, are subject to the orders of Confederate Officers, only, and cannot be organized from this department. The propriety, however of your suggestion is so manifest, that I have, today, written Maj. Gen. Buckner, at Mobile, urging the organization, & arming the men, so they may ready for any emergency, which may occur. I beg leave to enclose you a copy of an official Proclamation, issued, by me, on the 22d Dec. last, urging the formation of Volunteer Companies of State-guards, for local & State defense. You will observe that the Company officers are to be elected by the men, & if deemed advisable, to form the companies into Battalions or Regiments: the Commanding officers will be appointed by the Governor. I cannot grant you a commission, in advance of such organization; but if the companies are raised, & a Battalion formed, I will duly consider your claims to an appointment. In this connection, it is proper to remark, that the recommendations & wishes of the Company-officers & men should be consulted, in the appointment of Staff-officers. R. I have just written Hon. W. M. Smith, in relation to this subject, & refer you to him, for further information, & advice.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 1st 1863

† Hon. W. M. Smith, Selma; Sir, I am, to-day, in rec't of your letter of yesterday, upon the subject of the Yankee Raids, in Miss. & suggesting the exposure of our own State to simi

lar depredations, & the necessity of preparation for such an emergency. This subject has not escaped my attention. Soon after the adjournment of the Legislature, in December last, & on the 22d of that month, I issued a proclamation to the people of Alabama, urging them, as the Legislature had omitted to reorganize the Militia of the State, or provide for any other organization, to form Volunteer Companies of State-Guards, for local & State-Defence. Several Companies have been organized, under this proclamation - & one in this City. In other portions of the State, the sense of security against invasion has, doubtless, indisposed the people to form companies. The recent exhibition of boldness, on part of the enemy should, however stimulate our people to action, as, from the necessity of the case, if raids should be undertaken by them, into the Middle of the State, there is no means of meeting or repelling them, except local organizations of our own citizens - armed & ready for the emergency. It is impossible for the State-authorities to control the disposition of forces in the Confederate Service. All those forces, in the Northern Department of the State, are under the Command of Gen. Bragg, & are now employed, with good effect, in the Tennesse Valley. At Mobile, the number has been so reduced, that none could be spared from that point. I shall visit that City, however in a few days, & confer, fully, with Gen Buckner, on this matter. The Brigade, now being raised by Genl Clanton, the Secretary of War has promised, shall be retained for State defense. We are pushing forward its organization, & it will consist of Infantry - Cavalry - & Artillery. So soon as completed I hope the war-department will allow such a disposition of these troops, as will effectually protect the State, when aided by the Volunteer Companies of State-Guards, which, I hope, may be raised now, without delay, throughout the State. I enclose you a copy of My proclamation of the 22d Dec last & hope you will submit it, with this letter, to the Committee of which you are Chairman &. I am pleased to learn this morning, that the citizens of Montgomery are moving for the organization of two or more Companies of Cavalry, in this vicinity; & I recommend that the citizens of Dallas proceed to raise similar companies; & I beg the co-operation of yourself, and the Committee you represent, in aid of the movement which, I trust, may be, at once, inaugurated. Resp'y Yr obt Sert.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department,
(Montgomery, Ala. May 1st 1863.

How Robt Jemison Esq, Tuscaloosa.

Sir, The recent bold raids of the Enemy in Miss. have only the more deeply impressed My mind with the necessity of local organizations for defense. There is a movement on foot, in this City, to raise Companies of State-Guards, under my Proclamation of 22d Dec. last, a copy of which, I herewith enclose, which promises good results. I have recommended the citizens of Selma, by especial letter, to do the same, and I would advise similar organizations, at Tuscaloosa, & in the adjacent counties. If no attack, in that quarter should be made, the fact of organization will tend to give Confidence & Sense of Security. We have but few available arms, but can supply ammunition. Several Companies have been recently formed, in North Alabama, & I have shipped some arms up there. I hope our people, as they have, generally, retained their best guns, will be able to arm themselves. I deem this subject one of deep importance, & hope to have your co-operation & assistance, as heretofore, so heartily given, in aid of these organizations. Truly Yours.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 1st. 1863.

Maj. Gen. D. H. Buckner, Comm'g dep't Mobile.

Sir, The recent raids of the Enemy in Miss. seem to have awakened our citizens to a sense of their insecurity against bold & dashing, enterprizes, & to the necessity of organizations for home defense. Among others, I have rec'd communications from Selma, apprizing me of the formation of companies there, & suggesting, that, as there are some 200 hands there, employed upon Government Works, who, if organized - & armed would add, materially, to the power of successful resistance, & be an impelling motive to repel raids, that it would be advisable, that they be formed into Military organization and armed. &. If this suggestion meet your approval, I trust you will give immediate orders to put it into Execution.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Sert.

Jno Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 1st. 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Sec'y of War, Richmond.

Sir; I have rec'd notice from the Adjutant & Inspector-General's office, under date of 15th Ult. as follows.

Extract; "Special Orders, No 92, XXI. The following named persons have been appointed Appraisers under the Impressment Act. Alabama; R. C. Farris.

By command of the Secretary of War.

(Signed) Jno Withers, Ass't Adjutant Gen'l."

Though the Act provides for the appointment of a Commissioner, upon the part of the State, "upon the request of the President," I have considered this notice as official, and equivalent to such request; and have appointed Hon. Ulylie W. Mason, of Tuskegee, Macon Co. Commissioner on the part of the State of Alabama, under said Act.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, April 30th, 1863.

Gen. Duff C. Green. Dy-Mr-Gen. of Ala. at Mobile.

Sir; In view of the fact that all the profits, derived from the Sales of State liquors, are to constitute a fund for the benefit of the indigent families of Soldiers, & also, that the prices, at which they are sold, are far below the current rates of selling, you will sell all Whiskey at the price of ten Dollars per gallon; and Alcohol at fifteen dollars. &. The amount used by each individual Consumer, for Medicine, is so small, that these prices cannot affect them injuriously; and the inconvenience can be borne easily, in view of the object to be obtained.

Very Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery Ala, May 1st, 1863.

Bob. W. J. Greene, Comptroller of Public accounts, Montgomery, Ala.

Sir; Whereas, by the third Section of an act approved, February 24th, 1860, entitled "an act to re-invest a portion of the two-per-cent Fund," the portion of the two per-cent fund loaned to the Alabama & Mississippi Rivers' Rail-Road Company, under the acts approved, 9th February, 1852, and 8th February, 1858, amounting to the sum of one hundred & twenty three thousand, one hundred and seventy eight dollars, & seventy four cents, was given, as a donation to said Company, provided, said Company should complete their said Road to some point on the N. E. & S. W. Rail-Road, or to Meridian, in the State of Mississippi by—or before the first day of January, 1864, and the Governor was authorized & directed to cancel—& deliver up any, & all obligations, which may have been given therefor.

And, whereas, G. G. Griffin, President of said Road, has filed the affidavits of himself & Martin A. Lyon, that said road has been completed, as required in said Act; You are hereby, authorized—& required to cancel & deliver up said obligations of said Company.

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 1st. 1863.

Frederick Ross, Esq. Chulafinnee, Ala.

Sir, Your letter, in relation to the impressment of your Bacon & Corn, & requesting My official interference, is at hand.

The State has no agents in your County—authorized to impress provisions, whom Executive Orders could reach; and, I presume, the impressment spoken of, was made by Confederate officers, over whom I have no control.

But I feel satisfied that, upon showing them this letter, and evidence of the disposition you are making of your provisions, as stated in your letter, they will respect the necessities of your neighbours, and abstain from interference with the benevolent plans adopted for their relief.

Very Respectfully
(Signed)
Jno Gill Shorter;
Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 2d 1863.

Jno. P. Morgan, Esq. Montevallo, Ala.

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 18th inst, enquiring as to the purchase of Section 16, Township 22, Range 4. West, I reply that I have had enquiry made at the Land-Office, & find that the section is reserved for Schools. It is, therefore, under the control of the Citizens of the Township, and may be sold under their direction, or leased by the Trustees. &. For particulars as to Sale or lease, and the manner in which the Same may be accomplished- I refer you to the Code. The State- authorities have no control over the Matter.

order to here May 2d 63

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th. 1863.

Hon. B. H. Slough, Mayor of Mobile:

Sir; About the date of your letter of 11th ult. I left this City, for my old Home, & plantation in Barbour, where I had not been Since last Summer. &. Since my return, a few days. Since, the pressure of official business has prevented an earlier reply. &. With many of the views expressed by you, I cordially concur, but the whole question of impressments is in the hands of the Confederate Authorities; their action we can see, & feel the effects of it, but the reasons which prompt their action are not made public. Yet if the citizens are not Satisfied with the valuation of their goods, the law makes provision for a fair & impartial ascertainment of their value. &. Soon after the passage of the Act, the Hon. W. H. Mason applied for the appointment of impressment- Agent for the State, & obtained it. Judge Mason is a fair and just man, & I feel assured that he will give Satisfaction to all whose goods are impressed, under the Act of Congress. &. If, by any action of Mine- official or private- I could relieve our people from the loss or annoyance caused, or to be caused by this Act, I need not assure you, that I would cheerfully do it.

With Great respect, Your obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863.

His Excellency, John Milton, Gov of Florida, Tallahassee.

Sir; My absence from the Seat of Government, alone, has prevented an early reply to your Communication, of the 15th ult. &. For reasons, Similar- in the main- to those which governed you, I did not convene the Gen. assembly of Alabama, but addressed a Circular letter to the planters of the State, which, I believe has had a good effect; &, if the Seasons are propitious, our Supply of Cereals will be ample. &. I, cordially agree with you, in your views, relative to the necessity & propriety of Congressional action, to prevent "running the blockade", except with articles necessary for the army; and, also, in relation to Aliens claiming foreign protection, & who refuse to do military Service. &. The very heavy demands upon my time, caused by the accumulation of business, during my absence, prevent my responding as fully as I desire, to the Several points made by you. &. I join you, Governor, in the assurance, that it will give me pleasure to correspond with you, upon any Subject connected with the welfare of our States, or of the Confederate States

With Great respect, Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863.

Lieut. Ed. A. O'Neal, Dantee, Caroline Co. Va.

Sir, I am, duly, in rec't of yours of 25th ult. & have written to Maj. Vandervoer, to give a rec't for the boxes, by their marks & numbers. The Ala. Depot was established, at Richmond for the purpose of distributing clothing to Alabama Soldiers in Virginia. This Depot may be discontinued before next winter, & the Agent should not be required to give a rec't, which would bind him to keep the goods &c. until Called-for, or to become responsible for the contents of the boxes not Examined by him; but I See no objection to his giving a rec't for So many boxes, &c. with the privilege of turning them over to Some Safe depositary, Shd he leave Rich'd before the articles are called-for, & to this effect, I have written him.

Resp't'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863

Majr W. O. Vanderveer, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir, Lol. E. A. Oneal, commanding Rodes' Brigade, has written to me relative to sundry parcels of baggage belonging to that Brigade, which he had sent to your Depot, & for which you refused to receipt &. I have written to Lol. Oneal, that, while the rect & care of such articles was not contemplated by the Department in establishing the Depot, yet I saw no objection to your giving a rect for so many boxes by their marks and numbers, with the privilege of turning them over to some safe Depositary, should you leave Richd before they are called-for. I advise you to pursue this course

Respy, Yr obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863

Gen. Brayton Bragg, Comm'g at Tullahoma.

General, I enclose a copy of a letter just rec'd from the Hon. J. D. Leabaniss of Huntsville. The Negroes alluded to were impressed, under my orders, by virtue of an act of the Gen'l Assembly of Alabama, to construct defences within the State. &. the Owners of the Slaves having objected to their removal beyond the State, it becomes my duty to ask - as I respectfully do, that you will order their return.

With great respect Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863.

Hon. J. D. Leabaniss, Huntsville Ala.

Sir: Yours of 29th Ult. is before me. Enclosed, you will find a copy of a letter, addressed by me to Gen. Bragg, on the rec't of yours. I hope the Negroes will be returned, without further trouble to the owners.

Respy, Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th 1863.

D. R. Leonard, Esq. Huntsville, Ala.

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter, of 25th Ult. with respect to abuses, on part of officers, on the defences at Mobile, as to rations furnished to your Slaves impressed for work at that point, and have enclosed a copy to Col. Peter Hamilton, my Aid, at Mobile, with instructions for an investigation; a copy of my letter to Col. H. is enclosed herewith. In calling for Meat from owners of Slaves impressed, I had assurance from the Military authorities at Mobile, that the Meat should be properly distributed to the Negroes, whose owners had furnished it, & I gave full instructions on the subject, & regret to hear Complaints to the contrary.

Very Respy, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863.

Col. Peter Hamilton, A. D. C. Mob.

Sir, I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr D. R. Leonard, of Russell Co. a gentleman of high character, whose statements demand, at least, investigation at the hands of the State authorities, and remedy for the abuse, if it exist &. You will, therefore call the attention of the officer in charge at Mobile, to this matter, that the same may be investigated, & report the facts, & conclusions to this Department. &. If it should, upon investigation, turn out to be true, as regards Mr Leonard's Slaves, the strong probabilities are, (unless the circumstances attending their rations & condition are peculiar) that the abuse has extended to the Slaves of other owners, & that may be foundation for the opinion that the health of the Slaves may have been affected by improper food.

In furnishing rations for their Slaves impressed, the owners expected, from the assurances given them, that they would be furnished with them in kind, and those assurances should be carried-out.

Very Respy
Yr obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th, 1863.

Genl Duff C. Green, 2d-Mr-Gen. Mobile.

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of 30th Ult. Stating that Mr Shelton had made no deliveries of Spirits under his contract, but that he was delivering, at the rate of about one Barrel per week, to Dr Miller. I enclose, herewith, letter to Mr Shelton, which you will please forward, after perusal. &. On the 20th February, in reply to his request, I stated to Dr Miller, that the State had but one Contract for delivery at Mobile, & the Spirits would, probably, be needed by the people of the State for medical purposes; but that I would spare him 1000 gallons of Whiskey, at $5. and 150 Gallons of Alcohol, at $10. both to be of the kind & in the proportion, as delivered by Shelton. But it was not my intention to give the Medical Purveyor the preference, in rec't, nor that delivery should be made, directly, to him. You will please notify Dr Miller to that effect; and that he must share, proportionally, with our citizens, in the distribution, which must be made by you and, also, inform him, that the price of Whiskey will be ten dollars & Alcohol fifteen, as advised. On receipts previous to notice, he will account with you at prices first stated.

Very Resp'y. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th. 1863.

James F. Shelton, Esq. Mobile,

Sir, I enclose you a copy of a letter rec'd from Gen. Duff. C. Green, 2-M-Gen. Stating that you have made no deliveries of Spirits, under your Contract with the State, but that you have made weekly deliveries of about one barrel, to Dr Miller, Purveyor, C.S.A. &. I do not know the reasons for the failure to deliver as required by your Contract; nor why you should deliver to Dr Miller; as no authority has been given to that effect; & I trust, you will, at once, proceed to the delivery to the 2n-Mr-Gen, as required by the Contract. &. While willing to oblige the Confederate authorities, in any matter, wherein the State has the ability, I cannot consent to give them so large a preference over the Citizens of the State, nor to allow its financial affairs to be placed out side of the Jurisdiction of its proper accounting officers.

Very Resp'y (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Hon. J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Virginia.

Sir; Private, Thomas M. Murphree, Co. E. 5th Ala. Reg't has been Elected 2d Lieutenant in Co. A. in Col. J. P. W. Ammerine's Regiment, Clanton's Brigade; & Private, D. C. Larry, a Member of Co. E. 6th ala Reg't, has been elected 2d Lieut. of Co. H. Ammerine's Reg't, Clanton's Brig. Gen will please order the discharge of the above-named persons, that they may report to Col. Ammerine. & Mr Murfee is at home, on furlough, & is, at my instance, performing the duties of 2d Lieut. in the Company to which he has been Elected, & will continue to do so, until advised of the result of this application. &. Mr Larry is with the 6th Ala. Regiment.

Will you be pleased to have the papers transmitted to me?

With great respect, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863

Robert W. Smith, Esq Portland, Ala. Sir; I embrace the first opportunity, since my return permitted by the pressure of public business, to reply to your letter of April 9th, in relation to compensation for timber for the public defenses, taken from your lands near Choctaw Bluff. &. I fully recognize the principle, and the propriety of just compensation, for property taken for public use, & will not hesitate to take such steps, as will secure, to our citizens, fair & just compensation, for such property as may have been taken by, or on account of the State. &. Your account will present some complications, in the fact that the property, has been taken by both the State & the Confederacy; and while the Confederate Government will have to pay for the property taken by it; & the State primarily for that used for obstructions, yet, the State looks to the Confederate Gov't for ultimate repayment, it being, strictly, for general public defense. &. I will be pleased to receive such suggestions, in relation to the adjustment of the accounts, as will relieve, from complication & future embarrassment.

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Col. John T. Morgan, Commandant, &c. Talladega, Ala.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose, to you, lists of the members of the Fire Companies of this City, whom the Mayor certifies to be necessary for its safety. &. Under similar certificate, the Secretary of War exempted, at my request, Members of the Fire Department, at Mobile. A reference to the correspondence (a copy of which is enclosed) will show that the members of these Companies - certified by the mayor, have been, hitherto, exempted from enrollment, and are, now, for the first time, considered as included, by the enrolling officer here, among those liable to be enrolled. &. If within your Scope of authority, you will please give such orders, as will relieve them from this liability. If, however, you decline to do so, you will oblige, by returning the lists, & instructing the officer here to suspend the enrollment, until I can obtain a hearing from the Secretary of War. But as the Secretary of War has already exempted them, I hope it may not be necessary to refer the matter again to his office.

Very Respectfully
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Col. L. M. Garland, Comm'th Corps Cadets, Univ. Ala.

Sir; Mr. L. M. Whetstone, of Autauga Co. having made application for the admission of his Son - W. D. Whetstone - into the University of Alabama, and his age - 21 Years - under present orders, rendering him ineligible - in Consideration of the fact, that, at the Commencement of the war, he had intended that this Son should enter, & graduate at the University, which intention was frustrated by the Volunteering of this Son, who, with four brothers, entered the Confederate Service; & two of them having been killed - one at Seven-Pines, & the other at Sharpsburg - & W. D. Whetstone not being liable to Military Service, by reason of having procured a Substitute, I deem that these facts, & the patriotic Sacrifices of Mr Whetstone, constitute this an exceptional case: And you are authorized to enter the name of Mr W. D. Whetstone, among the list of applicants for admission, at the next Term of the University, without the restrictions of the General order, prescribing age &c. Very Respectfully; (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Col. P. Hamilton, A. D. C. Mobile.

Sir; Herewith I hand you accounts enclosed to this office, by the Jailer of Mobile. I also, enclose printed copies of a circular order, issued & mailed from this office, to the Sheriffs & Jailers of the State, under date of 21st Nov. 1862, directing an immediate return of runaway Slaves (reported to them) to the Public Works, whence they had escaped. The accounts presented have not been made out, in pursuance of this Circular order, & I send them to you, to enquire into the cause, and the propriety of the seemingly - heavy charges, presented against the State. Upon examination, you will report them back to this office.

Resp'y. Yr obt Sert. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Capt. J. A. Winbourne, Jackson, Miss.

Owing, I Suppose, to the irregularity of the mails, your letter, of 28th, is the only one which has reached me, since the one of which you have been advised. Present circumstances, & the condition of things, on the Miss^ri River, & West of it, indicate that any further prosecution of your Agency, would be unadvisable; but as I am informed that you expect to remain a while with the army, it is to be hoped that your Agency may be resumed, at some future day, with good prospects of Success.

I thank you for the promptness & activity you have shown, while so engaged, and hope it may be convenient & agreeable to you, to furnish me, occasionally, with your view of Current Events, while you are with the Army.

Very Resp'y

Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

J. R. Johns, Esq. Mayor of Selma.

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge rec't of your favour of 2d inst. and, fully, indorse all you say, as to the importance of organization for Home defense, throughout the State. Voluntary Companies of our citizens, not in the Confederate Service, are now the only means left us. The Legislature failed, at its last session, to re-organize the Militia of the State, or to pass any Military Bill, whatever. After its adjournment, I on the 22d of Dec. last, I published an appeal to the People of the State - a copy of which, herewith, I enclose you - urging the formation of Volunteer Companies of State-Guards, for Home-defense. I feared as the tide of War might approach our borders, that the enemy would Sally-forth, in hostile raids, upon our cities, towns, foundries, & public shops, & interrupt our lines of communication. The State of Alabama has, from the beginning of the War, with an unselfish devotion, not excelled - if equalled - by any other State, in the Confederacy, given all her available means - of Men, & Money, & munitions of War, in aid of the Confederate Cause. The Military Authorities of the Confederacy, have used these means, beyond the limit, of the State, when they, doubtless, believed they could best promote the general good; but this disposition of them, has left the State exposed, in its weakness, & we seem to be almost abandoned to ourselves. It is but proper to advise you, that the records of this Department show that Solemn protest has been made to the Confederate Authorities, against the withdrawal of so many troops from the State, but without avail. It is, however, the point of manly patriotism, now, to gather what remaining Military Strength, we may have left us, and prepare for any emergency which may occur. As this result is to be attained, by the voluntary action of the people, it is plain that if they refuse or neglect organization, it will be at their own peril. I am gratified that Col Byrd has raised a fine Company, in Selma. Two have been formed here, & another under way. I hope they may increase, in numbers, all over the State. We have ammunition, within our borders, & in our borders, in abundance - though deficient in approved arms. There are, however, a great many of the best private arms, yet remaining in the hands of the people, & they ought to use them, or permit others to use them, in the Common defense.

Col. Jemison is here, on his way, home from Richmond, and I am to have a full interview with him, tomorrow, in relation to the best plans to effect organization, at, & above Tuscaloosa, & to secure Couriers & Scouts, to express any important intelligence. I will request him to confer with you, as he passes through your city. As Maj. Lehamblis is the Commander of the Military Post at Selma, it will be proper to order any Companies of State-Guards, in that Vicinity, to report for duty, to him. Such an order, I telegraphed, yesterday, to Col. Byrd.

Desiring to secure the protection of the State, by every available means, & to do whatever may be in My power, to give Security to the city of Selma, I shall be pleased to hear any Suggestions, or information which you may be pleased to make.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't (Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 5th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I telegraphed you, to-day, that the Citizens of Mobile desired the assignment of Brig. Gen. Mackall to the Command in that city, in lieu of Maj. Gen. Buckner, ordered elsewhere, & urged his appointment, according to their request. I am advised that a memorial has been forwarded to your Department, in Support of this application. May I not hope that the organization of the army in Tennessee can be, advantageously, made, without the presence of Gen. Mackall, & that he can be spared to return to Mobile? I need not remind you of the vital importance of assigning to such a high position of responsibility, an officer of skill & energy, whose qualifications will command the respect & confidence of the Citizens of Mobile, & the authorities of Alabama. We are not satisfied with the present exposed condition of Mobile, & shall continue our remonstrances & protests, until some action is taken by the Confederate Government, to give Security & protection to our Sea-port City, and the Gate-way to the Capital of our State.

Hoping for a favorable response at an early day, I am,

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.
Gov. of Ala.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala: May 6th 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq:- Ch'n Ex'e Comm. Mobile.

Sir; Your letters of 30th Ult. & 1st inst. were duly rec'd. I telegraphed the Sec'y of War, expressing my earnest hope, that, as Mobile had been depleted by a removal of our troops, her citizens might be gratified by an assignment of Brig. Gen. Mackall to that Command. I concur, fully with you in your expressions of disapproval, as to the Manner in which Mobile has been treated by the War-Department. Alabama has been unselfish and constant in her devotion to the Confederate Cause - & no State has surpassed her, & yet She is made a mere dependency, & her forces, as fast as organized, are taken from within her borders, & She is left to her own resources - now nearly exhausted - for her security & protection. The removal of troops from Mobile has, heretofore been made, by me the occasion of remonstrance & complaint to the Confederate Government; and have now, again addressed a communication through the War-Department - directly to the President, calling his attention to our grievances, and, urgently, insisting upon a more liberal policy towards Mobile. Your letter of the 1st is so full, and your statement as to the situation of affairs is so clear & impressive, that I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of it to the President, which, I hope, may receive your approval.

I have, also, written to the Secretary of War, urging the appointment of Brig. Gen. McCall, & his immediate assignment to the Command at Mobile.

Respf'y Yr Obt Serv't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th, 1863.

Jefferson Davis, President C.S.A. Richmond.

Sir; I have the honor of communicating, herewith, a copy of a letter, rec'd at this office, from P. Hamilton, Esq - Chairman of Executive Committee, of the Committee of Safety for the City of Mobile, under date of the 1st inst. which earnestly protests against the depletion of that City, of organized troops, for its defense, by a removal of them to other localities. It is my duty to inform you that the Military arrangements, which have been, heretofore, made, for the protection of that City - so important to this State and the Confederacy, have been regarded, by its citizens, and the Authorities of the State, as insufficient, & not upon a scale, which, they hoped the zealous, & uncalculating devotion of the State had a just right to expect. And now, for a second time, that City is almost denuded of Troops, and, notwithstanding the formidable defensive works, which have been constructed, if it should be assailed by a land-force, with a few thousand Infantry, there would be imminent peril of its capture, by the Enemy. The letter of Mr Hamilton Speaks the Sentiments of Mobile; and his statements are so impressive, that I feel assured I need not enlarge upon the Subject in this Communication. I sincerely trust in the purposes of the Government, to afford adequate protection to its people - so far as its means will allow; and to such a disposition of its forces, as promises the greatest benefit to the Confederate Cause; but, at the same time, am painfully apprehensive, that the real weakness & exposure of the important Sea-Port of Mobile, are not fully known, or duly appreciated by our Military-Department Commanders. For this reason, I appeal to the President, to cause due examination into its condition, & for such provision for its defense, as the emergency demands.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov' of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 6th. 1863

Hon. N. B. Mardis, Judge of Probate of Shelby Co. - Sir, I have been, this day, notified by the Court of County Commissioners of Shelby Co. that your official "Bond" is insufficient to ensure fidelity in the discharge of (his") your duties as such Judge!! This notice is given under the provisions of the 5th Sec. of the "Act" to provide for the (support of the) indigent families of Soldiers, in the army of the Confederate States from the State of Alabama", approved Nov' 12th 1862, which provides "that: if, in the opinion of the Court of County Comm'rs, the bond of any Judge of Probate is insufficient to secure fidelity in the discharge of his duties, as herein imposed, such fact shall be reported to the Governor, whose duty

it shall be, to require a new or additional Bond, with additional Security, so as to secure the disbursement of this fund, without loss to the State, or injury to the indigent." &. With this notice, it is my duty to require of you, an additional Bond, with additional Security, in the sum of ten Thousand Dollars, which you will please give, at once, as the third instalment of $8. 91/6, for the indigent families of your County, will not be paid over, by the Comptroller, until the new Bond is given &. I enclose copy of the letter of the Commissioners.

Very Respt'y, (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter. Gov' of Ala.

P. S. Inasmuch as many of the duties of Probate Judge, are judicial, & cannot be delegated; & as the people, in their selection of you, for that office, expected your personal attention to its duties; and as the fund, for indigent families must pass through your hands, being, in the aggregate a large sum, & its judicious expenditure, a matter of serious moment to the people; I would suggest the propriety of your resigning your position in the army, to enter upon the discharge of your office as Judge.

Congress, at its last Session, passed an act requiring of the Secretary of War, that all Officers, elected to civil office, shall, upon application, be discharged from the Army. Should you desire it, I will address the Secretary, requesting acceptance of your resignation.

Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,

Montgomery Ala. May 7th, 1863.

Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill, Talladega, Ala. Sir; I thank you for your letter of the 5th inst. Before its rec't I had telegraphed Gen Bragg, demanding, as civil prisoners of State, under the President's order, all officers, taken in Alabama, serving with armed Slaves-inciting insurrection. That Alabamians who are found among the Enemy, are guilty of Treason, there can be no question, but having been captured by the military Authorities of the Confederate States, the War-department, will, doubtless, hold them, as prisoners of War, as this position was taken by the Government, in respect to Traitors in Virginia, when demanded by the Governor of that State. I will, however, open correspondence with the Secretary of War, on this Subject. &. I enclose you a copy of my "Appeal to the people of Alabama" on 22° Dec' last; which they, then, passed by unheeded. I hope, now, they will move vigorously in response to its timely Suggestions; & form Companies, for local defence, in every neighbourhood. I wish you to give, to this important matter, your early & vigorous efforts, by visiting the important points, in your command, & in the adjacent Counties. The people will have to furnish their own arms, as the State has but very few, which are available. Most of the private arms-gathered a year ago, were inferior, & many Worthless. The best have, long since been issued, to arm Confederate troops, in the State, & have, since, been carried beyond its limits. No arms have been delivered under the Contracts for new arms, made with the State. We shall be able, however, to supply ammunition, & I have, this day, ordered a Shipment for Talladega, care of D. S. Johnson, Esq, Selma, to be forwarded to Col. John T. Morgan, to turn it over to you, & confer with you as to its distribution. Please show him this letter, & ask him to show you the letter written to him. &. I have shipped ammunition for Tuscaloosa, & Greensboro', to the care of the Hon. R. Jemison jr, at the former place & Gen. Wm Kerr, at the latter, who will make a proper distribution of it.

There is another matter to which I wish to call your attention; and that is the organization of a line of Couriers, or Videttes, extending from Talladega over the Mountains, into the Tennessee Valley So as to secure the most reliable information of any movements involving the safety of the State. Such organization will be made through Tuscaloosa, communicating with Selma. You can confer with Col. Morgan on this Matter, & I have no doubt, he will readily assist An energetic man should proceed, at once, upon this mission. Let him enlist the aid of the Hon Enoch Aldridge of Blount, and carry him the enclosed letter, which you will please read before Sealing. Any expenses incurred will be promptly paid at the State Treasury.

Very Respectfully

Your obt Serv't

Jn° Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. May 7th, 1863.

Lieut. John D. Morgan, Talladega, Ala. Sir; I am, to-day, in rec't of your favor of 5th inst. from Montevallo, for which I am obliged. Your suggestions are approved. On 22d December, last, I issued a Proclamation to the people, urging the formation of Volunteer companies of State-Guards for local defense, & enclose you a copy. The Security & confidence felt by our people, at that time, was so great that they paid no attention to this Proclamation, and many of them had, perhaps, even forgotten that it had been issued. They now see the necessity of organization, & I hope, will form companies in every neighborhood. The State has but few arms, having given all she had to the Confederate forces, as rapidly as she could gather them up; & many of them which were issued with the understanding that they were to be used within the State, have been carried beyond its limits. We have ammunition, however, to issue to organized forces, as occasion may demand; and I have, to-day, ordered a shipment of a supply to Talladega, and ordered it shipped to care of Mess^rs A.S. Johnson, State Agents at Selma, to be forwarded to you. I suggest that you turn it over to Gen. Huey, and aid him in distributing it, as the exigences may require.

I have, to-day, rec^d a letter from Mess^rs J. P. Allen, G. W. Harris, & V. P. Nabors, dated at Elliotsville, Shelby Co. Ala. and asking for ammunition to be deposited at Montevallo; & I have written them that you would provide it from the Shipment ordered to you.

I have written Gen. Huey, to canvass the County, in his division, & adjacent Counties, and urge forward the good work of organization, while the people are in the humor for it. Thanking you for your hearty co-operation, & Zeal & energy in behalf of Alabama, I am,

Respectfully, Y^r obt Serv^t.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th 1863.

Mr Price Williams, Mobile, Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt, to-day, of your favor of 4th inst. I have known Hon W. W. Mason for many years, & though not having been engaged in Commercial Pursuits, he is a Gentleman of much practical experience in life, & is an upright, fair-minded, Just man. I have conversed fully, with him, upon the true interpretation of the term "just compensation", & its legal signification is too plain to admit of controversy. So far as the State of Alabama is concerned, it may be considered, as, in one sense, committed by the decision, which, as Governor, I made in the case of the Seizure of the Steamer Florida, by Governor Moore, my Predecessor. My award, in this Case, giving the owners of the Vessel, $90.000, was reported to the Legislature at its last Session, & has, since, submitted to Congress, & that body has recognized its correctness, & provided for repayment of the money to the State. In that decision, I assumed the proposition, that "just compensation" was "that measure of just remuneration which the Public faith is pledged to secure to every citizen, whose private property is taken for the public benefit: & that the "measure" — "was such a valuation, as would be made by an impartial mind, and certified to be fair-adequate-full." This is the rule, & by it, & reliable evidence, an intelligent, fair, & just-minded man cannot fail to mete out substantial justice, in any given case. 2. In reply to your Suggestion, that it would be well for the joint-Commissioners to visit Mobile, at an early day, I have to say, that they can act only, under the direction of the President at Richmond. The State has no power or authority over the assessments, other than the appointment of one of the Commission. This has been done, & he has been advised as to the rule, which the Executive of the State believes the proper one, by which to be guided. There, my powers, under the act, cease. 3. It is proper to remind you that the objects for impressment under the act, are numerous, & co-extensive with the State; & that the present organization of the Commission, by one gentleman, of enlarged Mercantile experience, & by the other, of familiarity with all plantation products, & with agricultural economy, and possessing, also, a mind trained to analysis, & legal discrimination, justifies the belief, that the administration of the Law, by them, will do justice, to both Government & the citizen. I confidently, believe that such will be the result of their action. 4. You will please show this letter to the Mayor of Mobile, & to Mr Walsh, & Mr A. D. Smith, & to any other gentlemen — if you deem proper, with the request, however, that no publication of it be made, for fear my motives might be misconstrued.

I beg to add, in conclusion, that the appointment of Judge Mason, had been made, by me before any applications, or recommendations, from Mobile, were submitted.

Very truly, Yours.
(signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 7th, 1863.

Hon. Enoch Aldridge, Brooksville, Blount Co. Sir; I herewith hand you a Commission, as Special Aid-de-camp, with the rank of Colonel of Cavalry; While on duty, you will receive pay according to your rank. I enclose you, also, my Proclamation, or "appeal to the People of Alabama," issued on 22° December last, urging the people to organize volunteer companies of State-Guards, for Home & local defense. At the time this appeal was sent-out, our people were so confident of their Security, or insensible to danger, that they paid little or no attention to it. Recent events have opened their eyes, and they are now looking round for means of defense. Companies are being formed in many parts of the State, & I hope the good work may go on, until all, who are able, may enroll themselves in some Organization or other. I desire you to enter, at once upon the duty of an active canvass of your County - and adjoining Counties, & urge the formation of infantry & cavalry, or mounted infantry, in accordance with my Proclamation - herewith enclosed. The men will supply their own arms, & I will furnish ammunition. This can be had, on application to Maj° Gen° Huey, or Col. John T. Morgan at Talladega. &. The recent raid of the Enemy, through Blount, & other Mountain Counties, shews the stern necessity of active efforts, for organization, in order that our people may be prepared for any emergency, which may occur. The Enemy are pursuing a mode of warfare, unparalleled in civilized countries, & they should have no quarter, when wandering from their lines, & roaming over the land, to desolate our homes & firesides. I have demanded, as civil prisoners of State, under the President's order, all Yankee officers, taken in Alabama - serving with armed Slaves, inciting insurrection, & if surrendered to me, they shall be guarded in the Penitentiary, until the Courts are convened to try them. I would prefer, however, that, when caught in such barbarous warfare, no prisoners should be taken. I have advised Gen. Huey, as to the necessity of establishing a line of Scouriers, extending from Talladega, over the Mountains, into the Tennessee Valley, through whom, rapid transmission of any important intelligence might be made. He will communicate with you, on this subject. And you will, likewise, communicate with Colonel Arthur Baird — My regular aid in North Alabama. I Relying on your zeal, and patriotic devotion to the State, I am, resp'ly, Your obt Serv't

(signed) Jn° Gill Shorter. Gov° of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th, 1863.

(Messrs J. M. Pearson &
Wm Page, Dadeville, Ala.

Gentlemen: I am, to day, in rec't of your letter of the 5th inst. and, in reply, have to inform you, that the requisition on Tallapoosa County, owing to the condition of its wants and necessities, was post-poned for the purpose of giving the County the benefit of all its Slave-labor, until after the small-grain crop could be gathered; and I had intended not to send it out until that time, but was induced to do so, recently, on account of the urgent demand made upon me for Negro labor at Mobile. I have, to day had an interview with Maj. Gen. Buckner, & the information communicated induces the hope that the labor from your county can still be spared, until after Harvest time; & concurring fully, with you, in the opinion, that it is a Matter of prime importance, to save all the small grain possible, I have to direct a Suspension of the impressment of Slaves in Tallapoosa County, until after the Harvest.

Yours, Respectfully,
(signed) Jn° Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 4th 1863.

Dr M. S. Moore, Warden, Ala. Penitentiary;

Sir; Thos Williams, Esq; Administrator of A. Burrows, advises me that he has made a count against the Penitentiary; for the hire of the teams & drivers, from the death of Dr Burrows, down to the purchase of the teams, by the State; and that as the

was paid interest on the value of the entire property retained by the State, you do not feel authorised to allow his account for hire. If, as he informed me, there was a separate contract or agreement, between Lyon, as Warden, & him as administrator, for hire for the teams & drivers he would, as Administrator, be entitled to receive the hire for the use of the property, instead of interest on its value; unless, in the subsequent contract which was made with the State thro' me, he, legally, waved the right to the hire. Whether, as Administrator, he could, legally, make such a waver, may admit of some doubt; but considering that he could, I am clear that the law would not hold him bound by a waver, unless it was manifest, that the contract made with the State, was understood mutually to cover it. The fact that an account was stated, embracing the valuation of the teams, in common with the stock & machinery in the prison, and that interest was calculated upon the whole, would be presumptive evidence that it was to cover the hire; but this statement and the settlement founded upon it, is open to explanation; and it is but fair and just to the Administrator, that I, as the agent contracting on part of the State, should admit the fact, that I was not aware of any contract for hire, or that if it had been mentioned to me, I did not remember it. Mr Williams affirms, too, that he did not understand by the contract, that he was waving the hire. I have no reason to doubt the correctness of his statement. And assuming it to be true, there was, therefore no understanding by either party, that the hire due by a former contract, was intended to be waived. as to his right, as Administrator to receive hire for the drivers, there can be no question as they were not purchased. For the reasons stated, and as the State ought to do full justice, where the facts are ascertained, in all its dealings with citizens, and, in a case like the present, even give the benefit of any legal doubt which might arise in favor of the citizen? &. I have to advise, that in a final settlement with the Administrator of Dr Burrows, you should allow the amount due on the contract for hire, after deducting therefrom, any interest which he may have rec^d, upon the valuation of the teams, & which may have been run into the General account.

Respy, Yr obt Sert.
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th, 1863.

Maj George V. Blitherall, Mobile.

Dear Sir; In reply to your letter of the 4th inst. I beg to remind you, that the Impressment Act of Congress provided for the appointment of one Commissioner by the President, one, by the Governor of the State, on request of the President. When appointed they receive their instructions and pay from the Confederate authorities. The President has not requested me to make any appointment, & I have up to this writing, received no communication from him on the subject. The Secretary of War sent me a copy of an official order, appointing a Commissioner in Alabama, by the War Department, & I acted promptly, on that, advising the Secretary of War, and saying that I presumed it was intended in lieu of a formal request by the President. Having made the appointment of a Commissioner, on part of the State, and notified the same to the Secretary of War, I conceived that I had done all which I had authority to do in the premises. You will please show this letter to Mr Price Williams, who will also show you a letter, which I recently addressed him on this subject.

Respy, Yr obt Sert. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th 1863.

Mr H. C. Taylor, Greensboro' Ala. Dear Sir, Advised of your patriotic zeal & energy, & ability to organize a line of Couriers & videttes, connecting Selma, with Columbus, Mississippi, via Marion Greensboro', & Tuscaloosa, embracing, also, as lateral points, Gainesville Pickensville & Carrollton, in order that rapid transmission of important intelligence may be made through that portion of Alabama, which is removed from Telegraphic communication, I have appointed you a Special Agent for the State, for the purpose of establishing such a line. The whole matter is committed to your discretion. You will communicate with my Aid, Col. A. B. Moore, and other citizens, in the towns mentioned, whose names have been mentioned to you. All costs & charges incurred will be paid at the Treasury. Respectfully, Yr obt Sert.

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 8th, 1863.

Hons. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I am advised that among the prisoners recently captured, near Rome, Geo. are officers found serving, within the limits of the State of Alabama, with armed Slaves, & inciting Slaves to insurrection within this State. If this information proves to be correct, the departure from the rules of civilized warfare, will & should deprive them of the benefits of any Convention giving them the privileges of prisoners of War, and render them amenable to the Laws of the State of Alabama, as criminals. In order that the Military Authorities might not be trammelled by action in advance, which might prejudice the claim of the State of Alabama upon these prisoners, I telegraphed to Gen. Bragg my intention to demand them for trial, under the laws of this State, & the propriety of granting it can be easily determined, upon the report, which Gen. Forrest will make of the results of his expedition. If his report should state the fact to be, as I have been informed, the case of these officers will be, clearly, within the announcement of the intention of the President, in relation to the Proclamation of President Lincoln, that they shall be surrendered, on demand, to the State authorities for trial. 2. But another matter has been brought to my notice, in reference to this capture, to which, I wish, especially, to call your attention, not with a view to embarrassing the action of the Government, but to arrive at just & correct conclusions, as to the proper course to pursue, not only in relation to the present—but to future captures of our own citizens—willingly serving in the ranks of the Enemy. 3. Among the prisoners, captured by Gen. Forrest, I understand there are two companies of Alabamians, who have enlisted, as such, in the army of the enemy, & having been engaged—with known enemies of the State, & the Confederate States, in acts not justified by any rule of War, or by necessity, have been captured upon the Soil of Alabama, not only levying War against the State, but instigating Slaves to rebellion, & committing deeds of Rapine & destruction upon the property of her citizens, without the excuse, which can pertain to Military necessity, or the course of War. If the uniform of our enemy is to continue to protect their officers & men, in their depredations upon private property, & wanton destruction of commodities, which can not be classed as munitions of War,—to say nothing of assaults upon peaceful citizens, & inhuman treatment of the helpless and unprotected, or their instigation of our Slaves to leave their service, is it also to protect our recreant and traitorous citizens, who, still claiming themselves as Alabamians, afford, to our enemies, the means of striking at the heart of the State, & who, when captured—claim the flag of our enemy as their protection? Ample opportunity was given to these traitors to cast in their lot with the enemy, & remove this reproach & stigma from the State. With a forbearance, before unknown, one of the earliest Acts of the Confederacy, was to invite those who preferred the rule of our Enemies, to leave our borders in peace, and establish themselves in the government of their choice. But these traitors preferred to remain, that their crime might Strike deeper, and their blow fall the heavier, and having chosen their Status, as citizens of a State of the Confederacy, they should not be allowed to escape the penalty of Treason which they have invited. They Stand as citizens levying war, as well as giving aid & comfort to our Enemies. They have chosen this position deliberately, well knowing the penalty, rejecting the clemency of the government, leaving in many instances their dependent families upon our Soil, to be supported by the charity of our people, and proclaiming their intention to lead or accompany the armies of our enemy, for our overthrow & destruction. 4. If there could be any doubt as to their position, if captured in legitimate warfare, in the ranks of our Enemies, that doubt must be resolved, when they abandon such warfare, to engage in pillage of private property, and murderous destruction of life. No Commission can justify deeds of rapine & violence, committed apart from Military necessity & in violation of the known rules of civilized warfare. 5. Even if, through motives of policy, we Suspend the proper and fitting punishment of our known enemies—citizens of hostile States, or aliens serving in their ranks, who, under orders of their Superiors, commit such acts of wanton depredation, the same reasons cannot apply to those marauders, who flaunt the flag of their treason in our faces, and dare & defy us in their malice. 6. I do not wish to discuss the question, whether their treason to their own State is merged

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in their treason against the Confederacy, nor to embarrass the Confederate Government with questions of jurisdiction. It will enough for me, & the State which I represent, if these Traitors be taught that impunity is not to be bought by bravado & that it will be matter of indifference, whether they receive the reward of their treason, at the hands of the Confederacy, or by the laws of the State. &. It is then with a view of disembarrassing the Confederate Government, that I respectfully request that these Marauders be delivered up to the authorities of this State, for trial by her civil Tribunals, for their acts of violence and rapine against our citizens, & their treason against the State, whose citizens they claim to be &. It cannot be alleged, for them, as it might be for traitorous citizens of border States, that there are conflicting claims of hostile Governments to jurisdiction, or that the State, thro' the calamity of war, has failed to afford protection & redress to her citizens. Their position has been voluntarily sought, their treason openly avowed, and boastfully vindicated, their violence wanton and malicious. They have braved the penalty of treason, in avowing themselves Alabamians, & as such, serving with marauding bands of the enemy, within the borders of our State, & are not entitled to the privileges of Prisoners of War. &. If it is preferred by the Confederate authorities to retain & try them for their treasonable acts, I am willing to waive the demand on part of the State; but believing that Justice will be fully & fairly meted out to them, by the judicial Tribunals of Alabama, it would be more agreeable to me, that, both, the officers Mentioned, and the men alluded to, be turned over, upon my demand, to the State authorities. Proper arrangements will be made, for their safe keeping, until they can have a fair & impartial trial

Resp'y, Yr obt Sert, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 9th, 1863.

Gen. D. L. Green. 2a. Mr. Gen. Mobile

Sir; Your report of arms, under date of yesterday, is just rec'd, by mi Punch. Advise how many and what kind are necessary to be retained in Mobile; and whether the arms reported in bad order, can be promptly repaired & on reasonable terms, in your city. There is a great cry for arms in every portion of the State, & I wish to aid in arming the companies of State Guard, which are being organized in different localities. &. If arms cannot be repaired in Mobile, it will be best to ship them here, for that purpose.

Resp'y Yr obt Sert (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 9th, 1863.

Messrs A. L. Johnson, & Co Selma, Ala.

Gentlemen; You are, hereby, appointed State-Agents for the State of Alabama, for inspection & Sale of liquors at Selma. I enclose blank bond, which you will execute & return; Also, you will find enclosed, "Proclamation", & "Instructions to Agents" which will show you the full extent of your duties. &. There are no contracts taken, deliverable at Selma; but the A. Q. M. here will ship to you, the receipts of one of the contracts deliverable here. Another has been appropriated to the Agency at Tuscaloosa, and the first shipment will be made through you to Col. R. Jemison jr, A. D. C. who will select the Agent, to whom future shipments will be made. &. The price has been fixed at $. 10. per Gal. for whiskey, & $. 15. for alcohol, in consideration that the profits are to constitute a fund for the benefit of indigent families of Soldiers. Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Dept, Montgomery, Ala. May 9th 1863.

Col. R. Jemison, jr. Tuscaloosa, Ala. Sir; Having no contracts for distillation, deliverable at Tuscaloosa, I have determined to use one of the Contracts, whose delivery is to be at place, for the benefit of Western Alabama, and herewith, enclose you copy of "Proclamation", "Instructions to agents", which you will please hand over to some Suitable person at Tuscaloosa, who will accept the Agency, & furnish me with the name of the person selected. One barrel of Whiskey will be immediately forwarded, by the A. Q. M. to your address, which you can turn over to the agents, and the remainder of the Contract will be forwarded to him, as delivered here. The agent selected by you, will execute & return the Bond enclosed, before entering upon his duties. The prices, at the Agency, will be $. 10. for Whiskey, & $. 15. for Alcohol, which have been so established, in view of the fact, that the profits are to constitute a fund for the benefit of the indigent families of Soldiers

Very Resp'y
Your Obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 9th, 1863.

Hon James A. Seddon, Secretary of War; Richmond.

Sir; I have the honor to submit herewith, copies of an order, issued by Maj. Gen. Buckner commanding the Department of the Gulf, requiring of Maj. Wagner, Ordnance Officer, at this post, to repair certain arms loaned by this State to Col. Hunter's 2nd Alabama Cavalry, and returned in unserviceable condition; as, also, a letter of Col. Blitherall, Chief of Ordnance for Alabama, with respect to the non-execution of said order. ℔. As the order of Maj. Gen. Buckner, was prompted by a sense of Justice to the State, which had, previously, at various times, loaned its arms to troops in the Confederate Service, to receive them back in unserviceable condition, to be repaired at its own Expense, and as Maj. Wagner denies the authority of Gen. Buckner to give such order, I trust you will give such order, as will restore the arms to the State, as speedily as possible, & in condition for service. Alabama has fear arms for troops, of her own, as her arms have been freely issued to the troops in the Confederate Service.

Your obt Serv't.
(Signed) John Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

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Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863

Capt. J. A. Speed, A. Q. M. Saltville, Va.

Sir, As recommended by you, Mr A. B. Eaton has been appointed Agent for the State of Alabama, to assist in the transportation of Salt from Va. to make his head-quarters at Bristol and to report to you for orders also to Capt. Snodgrass. ℔. Capt. Snodgrass will be stationed at Cleaveland, & instructed to take charge of transportation, on the same roads. Very Resp'y, (Signed) J. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Capt. Snodgrass, Chattanooga, Tenn. Sir; With a view to facilitate the transportation of Salt, from Virginia, & to relieve you from too heavy a charge, I have, to-day, appointed Mr A. B. Eaton Agent of the State, to assist in transportation, with instructions to proceed to Bristol, & receive orders from Capt. Speed at Saltville, & from yourself at Cleveland, which you will, hereafter make your head-quarters, with the more especial charge of the roads, below that point, to the various distributing points, in Alabama. ℔. While Mr Eaton's corresponding point will be at Bristol, he will travel over the roads in Tennessee, when his services may be needed. Very Resp'y, (Signed) J. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th 1863.

Mr A. B. Eaton, Sir, You are, hereby, appointed Agent of the State of Alabama, to assist in the transportation of Salt from Virginia to Alabama, & will be stationed at Bristol Tenn. to report to Capt. J. A. Speed, at Saltville for orders. You will also receive & execute orders from Capt. A. Snodgrass, at Cleveland, Tenn. The object of your appointment is to secure the speedy & certain transmission of Salt, by the R. Roads, & to exchange from one to the other of the connecting roads. ℔. Your pay will be seventy five dollars, per month & your board, while in the employment of the State. Resp'y, (Signed) J. Gill Shorter

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War; Richmond.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of the Rolls of Members of the Fire Department of this City, who are liable to Conscription, by reason of age, and, also, of Telegraphic correspondence with the Department of War, in relation to their Exemption during the past year. ℔. In addition to the necessity which Exists for their service in the City, in case of Conflagration, the Members of these Companies are organized into a Military Corps, for local defense, thereby promoting the Security of the City, & of the Government property deposited here. ℔. On application to Lt. Col. J. J. Morgan, Commandant of Conscripts for Alabama, he refuses to exempt or detail, or to Suspend their enrollments, until your department can be consulted. ℔. In view of the necessity of this organization, of its Military character, & of its previous exemption, I respectfully request that its members may be left for the performance of their important duties to the City & the State.

Very Resp'y,
Your obt Serv't,
(Signed) J. Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala

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Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala; May 11th 1863.

Col. John T. Morgan, commanding Conscripts for Ala. Head-quarters, at Talladega Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your favr. of 8th inst: with enclosures. &. Under the exemption act of Oct 1862, all State officers- Legislative- Judicial- & Executive, were exempted from conscription, except State-officers, as, by the laws of the State, may have been, or may, hereafter be declared liable to Military duty. There is no positive law in Alabama, declaring any State-officer liable to Military duty, unless Justices of the Peace- Constables, or Notaries Public, are State-officers, in the meaning of the Constitution & laws- and I concede that they belong to a class of officers, who are not within the terms- State-Officers, as defined by our Legislature. (excepting Justices of the Peace, commissioned by the State) Upon a review of your letter, of 14th of April, to Col G. W. Lay- I concur in your opinion, as therein announced, & cheerfully, acquiesce in the decision of the War-Department, as to the class of officers therein embraced. &. By the recent amendment of the Exemption Act, by Congress, it is provided that "in addition to the State officers exempted by the Act of Oct 11th 1862, there shall, also be exempted, all State officers, whom the Governor of any State may claim to have exempted, for the due administration of the Government and laws thereof" I am somewhat at a loss to understand this last amendment. All our State officers belong either to the Judicial- Legislative, or Executive Departments, and are exempted under the act of Act of 1862. If there be a class of State-officers, other than these, I do not know them, & if the class embraces other than State officers, I have no power to exempt them. As it is unnecessary, therefore, for Me to enumerate the State-officers, under the Act of 1862. I have to request you to advise me, what class of officers you consider State-officers, & who are not exempted, under the act of 1862.

Resp'y Y'r obt Serv't. (signed) Dr Gill Shorter

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th 1863.

Col. Arthur le Beard. A. D. C. Huntsville, Ala. Sir, I have just rec'd official information from Gen. Bragg, that the Slaves, impressed by the State, for work on the Defences at Bridgeport, & removed, by Confederate Officers to Chattanooga, have been ordered to be returned to Bridgeport &. as the Securing of the Grain Crop is of great importance to the State- as well as to our people- and the Confederacy, you will so arrange it, as to release the hands, in time to reap that Crop.

Very Resp'y (signed) Dr Gill Shorter

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala, May 11th 1863

John Chain, Esq. Andalusia, Ala. Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th inst; requesting Certificate for exemption of L. L. Jones, as Coroner of Covington Co. & giving other reasons for the propriety & legality of his exemption, beside the office he holds. Most certainly, it would seem that being unfit for Military Service by reason of physical disability— the being a "practical Apothecary" "in good Standing,"— and having furnished a Substitute, ought to be sufficient for his exemption. &. But, in view of the various Acts of Congress upon the subject of exemption, I am not prepared to say that a Coroner is a State-officer, who is exempt from enrollment for Military Service. The importance of his office- under the Common Law- has been largely shorn of its proportions, by our Statutes, & the office is one easily filled in case of vacancy, without a vote of the Legislature- or the people- or the appointing power of the Executive. In fact, he is but the appointee of the Court of County Commissioners, whose Members are not, themselves exempt from enrollment by virtue of their office. If they fail to elect, or, from any cause, there is a vacancy, with a necessity for such officer, to execute civil process, his place is supplied, by appointment of the Judge of Probate &. By reference to Section 109 of the Code, in connection with Sec. 800 to 811 in reference to the Coroner, you will perceive that a Coroner is not a Commissioned Officer of the State, & therefore, I have no reference, by which I can determine his official Standing as a State officer. Of course, you will recognize the impropriety of such a Certificate, as you request, even if I were fully satisfied that he is a State & not a County Officer, a distinction, acted upon, & assumed by the War-Department, in reference to the construction of the exemption Law.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed)
Dr Gill Shorter
Gov of Alabama

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Messrs. E. M. Muse, & Wm. M. Barnes, Lafayette Ala. Gentlemen; I have rec'd yours note of May 9th, asking exemption from Enrollment, of Dr James E. Scarborough, as Justice of the Peace, & in reply, W° say that Justices of the Peace - Constables were, expressly, made liable to Militia Duty, by the Legislature at its last Session, with a view to their enrollment as Conscripts, if within the ages: and, under this act, many have been enrolled, or volunteered into the Service, to escape enrollment: &. If I have the power of exemption, its use would be in opposition to this expressed will of the Legislature, and I could not Exempt; now, in justice to those already in the Service, unless my order could reach all of the same class, which would be impossible

Very Respectfully. (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Col. White, Commanding C. S. Arsenal, Selma, Ala.

Col: I beg to hand you a requisition for fixed ammunition - powder, lead, caps, &c. &c. for use of Alabama Corps of Cadets, at the University of Alabama, which, I hope it may be in your power to fill. &. Please deliver the same, to Messrs A. S. Johnson, & Co. State Agents at Selma, who are authorized to receipt for the same, & who will ship it to Col. L. C. Garland Superintendent, & Commandant of the Corps, for whose use it is wanted.

With high regards, I am, respectfully, Your Obt Serv't;
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter. Gov° of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

Geo. A. Thompson, Esq° Glennville, Ala. Sir; I have rec'd your letter of 10th inst, & would say, in reply, that the Negroes impressed by the State authority, were delivered to the Confederate authorities of the State, at Mobile, with the positive request that as they had been impressed for Sixty days' Service, under the State laws, they should be discharged, promptly, at the expiration of that Term; but I regret to say that they have wholly disregarded the requests the complaints, as to food, & medical attendance have been time & again, reported from this Department, & the neglect protested against; & I have been forced to appeal to the Secretary of War, for peremptory orders, to the Commanding Officer at Mobile, to discharge these negroes, I hope to receive such orders from him, as will, at once, discharge your boy.

Very Resp'y, Your obedient Serv't; (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

W. B. Kyle, Esq°: Gadsden, Ala: Sir; I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting letter, of 7th inst. containing particulars of the recent raid upon Gadsden, & the capture of the Marauders, by Gen. Forrest. While I regret, exceedingly, to hear of your losses, I congratulate you, upon your escape from the clutches of men, so devoid of principle & feeling. Upon receiving the news of their capture, & of the fact that they were Serving with armed negroes, I notified Gen. Bragg of my intention, and made a demand of the Secretary of War, that these officers be turned over to the [redacted] authorities of the State, for trial in accordance with the proclamation of the President: And, further hearing that there were Alabamians Serving with them as such, I deemed it my duty to demand them for trial, unless the Confederacy should hold them for treason against it. &. To this communication, I have, as yet, no reply; & I cannot judge as to the probability of its being granted, unless I knew all the facts attending the case, & the terms of the Convention, by which they were surrendered to Gen. Forrest. &. I regret that I have no State force, at disposal, with which to accede to your request for troops, to be Stationed for the protection of N. Ala. Gen. Clanton's force is raising under Confederate Authority, & was, originally, intended to operate on the Coast; but, as its proportions have been, largely, increased, it is not improbable that a portion of it may be placed upon other duty. Gen. Clanton is, himself, desirous to Serve in N. Ala. where his force would prove a most effectual protection against Such raids; as his bold, dashing, and energetic manner of action would prompt him to meet them, at once, without delays, but, of course, he must obey the orders of his Superiors; and it is probable that the heavy withdrawal of troops from Mobile, may induce them to order him, for a while, to that neighbourhood. &. But I think your security for the present, lies Mainly, in the rapidity and completeness of the pursuit made by Gen. Forrest, & the readiness with which the advance force of the Enemy was met, near Rome.

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No Raid can be successful, where the Citizens - promptly - turn-out to repel the invader. It is in the startling suddenness - leaving no time for preparation, that the success of the raider must consist. But, when, upon slight notice, the pass & the bridge are defended by citizens, who feel that their property, homes, & lives are to be saved, only by stout hearts - & strong arms: when every thicket conceals a foe, & when the Mountain-path, & Broad Highway are both to be contested - the invader feels his insecurity, & is ready to leave for easier conquests. ✱ In answer to the many letters - written in the alarm created by the late movement; I have enclosed my proclamation, of 22° December last; and urged the formation of companies, under its provisions. Some of our Militia officers feel the necessity of providing for its efficiency; & the Adjutant & Gen. will send out orders; which, I hope, will awaken them to more earnestness. In addition, arrangements have been made, for a line of Couriers, which, by speedy transmission of intelligence, will enable us to baffle any such parties, by meeting & checking their advance. Ammunition has been sent to Selma, Talladega, & other places, for distribution to officers of organized Commands. With these preparations - & the vigilance, & readiness of our people, I trust we will be secured against any future movement of this sort.

Very Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

P.S. I have read, with much pleasure, in the Jacksonville Republican, of 9th inst. an interesting account of the conduct of Miss Jane Dawson, of your County, in piloting Gen. Forrest over a Swollen Stream, while in pursuit of the Enemy. Please inform me if the facts stated are, circumstantially, true, as, in such event, I shall compliment her with an appropriate notice from the Executive office. J. G. S.

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Thomas H. Abney, Esq. Randolph, Ala. Dr. Sir: I have received your letter, stating the probability of Yankee raids into your Section - the helplessness of your people - and their want of organization & Ammunition. I regret, principally, your want of organization, as that is a want which cannot be supplied - when the time of Raid comes, while the want of ammunition can be supplied at short notice. Already, Supplies have been sent to Selma - Talladega - Tuscaloosa, & other points of distribution. But it can be issued only to responsible Military officers, who will be responsible for its proper use. ✱ It was with this view, - that, in the disorganized condition of the Militia, I issued, on the 22° of December last, the enclosed proclamation, & I hope you will urge, upon the people of your County, the importance of organizing, either under this Proclamation, or of calling upon their Militia to do their duty - at once; in gathering their Commands, & putting them in a State of efficiency. Either course will secure the needed ammunition, and the prospect of successful repulse to the invasions of the Enemy.

Very Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala. May 11th, 1863.

Col. L. L. Garland, Comm'r Corps of Cadets, Univ. Ala.

Sir: I am in rec't of your favors, of 6th & 7th inst. for which I am obliged - The energy & zeal displayed by the Corps of Cadets under your Command, on the recent report of the approach of Yankee Marauders, in the direction of Tuscaloosa, is deserving all commendation. ✱ I am pleased to hear that the field-Artillery, ordered at the Shops, in Tuscaloosa, will soon be ready. Please hurry the job. The State has no suitable ammunition for these Guns, & I have, to-day, forwarded, by Capt. Jemison of Tuscaloosa, a requisition for all the ammunition you ask for, on Col. White, Comm'r of C. S. Arsenal, at Selma, by whom I am assured it will be filled, and have directed an immediate shipment of it to you. ✱ I note your sensible remarks upon the Subject of Military organization. Unfortunately, our people are rarely Sensible on this Subject, and only in times of apprehended or threatened danger of attack, when they become deeply excited, & clamorous for Something to be done by Somebody. Whatever may happen, in consequence of inadequate means for local defense throughout the State, I shall ever feel acquitted, in my own Conscience, of all responsibility or blame; Let me explain. In view of the dis-organization of the State Militia, by the Conscript-law, I made the necessity of its re-organization a subject of Special attention, in my Message to the Called Session of the Legislature, and recommended the enrollment of every able-bodied man in the State, between 16 & 60 years of age, who was not in the Confederate Service. I send you a copy of my Message, to which you are referred. The Legislature passed through the Called Session of two weeks, & the regular Session of thirty days, and adjourned, without passing a Solitary Measure, to improve & Strengthen the Military Arm of the State. They had no confidence in the Militia organization, unfortu-

nately, & which was to be attributed to the known incapacity of the many inefficient officers, who had been elected under our peace-establishment; & they had not the nerve or will to unhorse them—reorganize, and order new elections. The wide difference of opinion, which manifested itself, & which satisfied me of the inutility of calling the same body of men back, into an extraordinary Session, induced me to let the responsibility rest where it properly belonged. Within a fortnight after the Legislature adjourned, I issued the enclosed "Appeal to the people of Alabama," published it in every paper—sent copies to every Member of the Legislature, to every County Judge, & Sheriff in the State, besides, to a large number of influential private citizens. Such was the State of false Security, felt by the people, and so absorbed were very many, in Schemes of aggrandizement, & their daily pursuits, that this earnest appeal—beyond a few brief notices, of a few of the presses, passed unheeded, & unnoticed; and many, now, have, even, forgotten it; and I am daily receiving letters, urging me to issue just such a proclamation! But I did not stop here. Early in January, I had issued, from the Office of the Adjutant Gen an order to all the Gen. Officers, of the Militia, throughout the State, directing an immediate enrollement of every man in the State, liable to Militia duty; and that a report be made to head quarters, without delay, in order that I might know the available Military Strength left in the State—and its locality. In response to this urgent peremptory order, but two reports have, up to this date, been received. These are from Brigadiers. There are, in the State, 11 Divisions, & 22 Brigades! I have, now, again directed an order to be issued by the Adjutant-Gen. to every Maj. Gen. in the State, to proceed, without delay, to a thorough organization of every portion of his command, with a view to active Service in the field, if the emergency shall require it; to have all vacancies promptly filled; & in case of invasion, where it will be impracticable to await orders from head-quarters, to order out their Commands, or any portion, for the protection & defense of the State. 3. Your Suggestions, as to the establishment of a line of Couriers, are approved, & were anticipated by a letter from this Department, to A. B. Taylor Esq, of Greensboro,—a copy of which is enclosed—directing him to provide the necessary organization to that effect. Being the Contractor on the Mail lines connecting with Columbus Miss: and possessing, at his different Stables, on the various lines of Communication, a constant relay of horses, which could be made available, at any Moment; it was deemed most advisable to commit this arrangement to him. I invited him to the Capitol, & had a full personal interview with him, in explanation of the plain, & purpose, & he has promised its undertaking & expedition, with energy & zeal, & relies confidently, upon his Success. The Major-Gen. of the 2d Division, embracing the Counties of Bibb, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, & Pickens, is N. H. Davis, of Pickens, who is absent in the Confederate Service. The Brigadier of the 5th Brigade—embracing Tuscaloosa & Pickens, is Andrew Ulrich, who is at home—& the ranking officer in the Division, & responsible for its organization. The late Brigadier of the 24th Brigade—including the Counties of Bibb & Shelby, resigned, & although an Election, to fill the vacancy, was ordered, long since, no return has been made. I have no power to displace or appoint. 4. Col. R. Jemison, Jr. is my special A. de C. at Tuscaloosa. I had an interview with him, a few days since, as he passed through this city, on his return from Richmond; and he will represent me, in the extension of all necessary orders, for the public defense, in your Section of the State. 5. I beg to assure you, that I do not deem what you may have said or done, towards Military organization for the protection of the State, as officious, in the slightest degree. On the contrary I return you Sincere thanks, for your patriotic zeal & Energy, & hope you will abate or weary, in giving your personal Services, & valuable counsel, in behalf of your Suffering Country. I have none of that vain Self-assurance which claims omniscience, and impunity from the interference or Suggestions of any one of our good & true Men; but I am gratified, at all times, to have the benefit of their advice & assistance. I notice your remarks upon the subject of the impressment of horses, and other property, in case of Emergency, for the Public Defense. The Military Arm has never failed to exercise their power, in case of extreme necessity, & its justification rests upon the fact of Necessity. In a proper case, there should be no hesitation, as to the exercise of the power, by a Military Commander. Nor can General orders be issued, which would make the duty more incumbent, or which could define, with particularity, the occasion, or combination of facts, where the power should be exercised. The principle is given—the power exists, & its exercise is a question to be determined by the officer, in command, in any given emergency.

It is My intention to be at Tuscaloosa, by the 3d proximo.

Respfly

Signed

Jno. Gill Shorter.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

J. R. Johns, Esq. Selma

Sir, I thank you for your letter of 8th inst. I sent, yesterday, by Capt. Jemison of Tuscaloosa, a requisition on Lool White, for the ammunition needed for the Alabama Corps of Cadets at the University, which, I hope, may be filled. I forwarded, immediately, by A. D. Johnson, Esq. who were authorized to receipt for it. I have sent ample munition, from here to Gen. Ker at Greensboro' to Gen. Huey, at Talladega; & Col. Jemison at Tuscaloosa, to be distributed to organized Forces, for the public defense. &. I am gratified to learn that the Confederate authorities are alive to the importance of defending Selma, against any raid of the Enemy. The destruction of the public works there, would be an incalculable loss. Would to God! our people could duly realize their danger, and, properly aid the State & Confederate Authorities, in timely preparation to meet it. They seem insensible to its approach, until the Enemy is at their doors, when it is too late to resist him, with concerted purpose, and efficient organization. As you predicted, the Selma Company has refused to report its Rolls! What a spectacle for our Enemy!

Truly Yours. (Signed.) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War. Sir. Sometime since, I addressed you, requesting the acceptance of the resignation of Capt L. M. Duff, 5th Squadron, 6th Georgia Cavalry, now stationed near Cumberland Gap; & received, in reply, your letter of 25th March, 1862 declining to accept his resignation, upon the ground that he was under charges.

Understanding that these charges have been withdrawn, I respectfully renew the request that his resignation may be accepted, and that he may resume the duties of his office, as Register & Receiver of the Land-office, at Centre in this State

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't (Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. May 13th, 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq. Sch'r Comm'r Mobile, Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your your letter of 11th inst. enclosing papers connected with the construction of the Ram Baltic. You have certainly done the work, with commendable economy & promptitude. &. No further report is needed, as your accounts with the treasury are properly closed.

Very Resp'y. (Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 13th, 1863.

Lieut. Eli S. Shorter, A. D. C. Eufaula, Ala. Sir; In reply to your letter of 9th inst. I would state, that copies of the Salt-laws, of last Session, have been sent to Mr. McKenzie; & also, to Mr Charles Petty, Clayton; & I ask particular attention to the 4th Section of Act. No 37, which is in itself, full instruction to the Agents. &. the 150 Sacks ordered, will be shipped by the A. C. M. as requested. &. Copies of Mr Russell's contract, will, also, be sent, & these Gentlemen advised as to Sale-commission, &c. Very Resp'y, (Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. May 13th. 1863.

Lieut. L. P. Garland, Comm'r Univ'y Ala. Tuscaloosa.

Sir; Maj. Joseph Hodgson, Commanding Cavalry Battalion, Clanton's Brigade, desires leave of absence for Cadet Charles P. Storrs, for the purpose of raising a Company for Hodgson's Battalion, stating that he is, in every way qualified for such command, and that his skill, as an Officer would be of great assistance to him.

If not inconsistent with previous orders, or regulations, you will grant the leave of absence as desired, directing Cadet Storrs to report to Maj. Joseph Hodgson, at Head Quarters, New-Berne, Ala

Very Respectfully

Your obt Serv't

(Signed)

Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

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Executive Department

Montgomery Alabama May 12th, 1863

Lieut. Wm H. Sanford, Auburn, Ala. Sir; I regret that my absence, at Eufaula, to visit my plantation, where I had not been since last Summer, should have been succeeded by such an unprecedented pressure of official correspondence, that I have been unable, at an earlier day, to reply to your letter of 17th ult. I regret that Lieut. McGehee, Salt-Commissioner, should have misapprehended the purport of my conversation with him, in reference to payment for your boy who died at his works, & that that misapprehension should have misled you, in regard to my proposition, intended to be made thro' him. &. As the Legislature has made no provision for such a case, and, as there is no fund, from which I could pay for such loss or damage, I have no authority by which I could bind the State to abide the result of an arbitration, or make it of any benefit or advantage to you; it would be a mere waste of time & labor without result. &. But the proposal which I intended to make thro' Lieut. McGehee, was — in order to perpetuate testimony — & save expense of time in investigation, was, to agree to the selection of some indifferent & disinterested party, to take, & record all the testimony bearing upon the case, which then, could be used by you, in such way as you might prefer, in obtaining compensation for the loss of your slave. &. I need not argue with so experienced, and well-informed a lawyer as yourself, as to the limited powers of the State Executive, & the necessity of some Legislative authority, to authorize him to bind the State to the performance of an award, and of Legislative appropriation, to authorize a payment from the Treasury. & But the testimony, taken, as I propose — without bias-feeling, or partiality, — would have its full & appropriate weight, either before the Legislature, or the Courts, as you might choose your Forum. In this extent, I proposed to bind the State, and, with my limited powers, I do not see how I could go further, though with every desire to do you full & complete justice, in the matter.

In reference to the payment of your demands, against the Salt-Commissioner, in Salt, as suggested in yours, in relation to the awards, I beg to refer you to the 4th Section of Act № 37, sent by this mail, by which you will see that the Legislature has made a specific disposition of all Salt, made at the State-works, so that the Commissioner could not divert it to the payment of your demands, even if so inclined. &. The case of your boy Dennis, does not stand alone, but in common with many others, who have died at the works, and for which, doubtless, claim will be made upon the State for payment. Here, the Executive stands, as in the other case, without authority to decide upon the measure of damages, or appropriation for payment. Were I to undertake to adjust your claim at the Treasury, I could not omit to include the others, also, who are like sufferers with yourself. This would exhaust the Treasury. But, being possessed of no such power, no provision having been made, by law, for such cases, I have determined to bring the matter to the attention of the Legislature, in my annual Message, & to recommend the appointment of a Commissioner to take evidence, & determine the damage to the parties, & that appropriation be made for the payment. The claims against the State, for such losses, will be heavy, beyond the expectation or calculation of those who have not informed of the numbers of the Slaves who have been lost to their owners, while impressed by the State, or whose death may be, directly, traced to that service. But Justice calls for the payment, & the State will vindicate its integrity, to its people, by a prompt payment for their losses. &. The payment for services-and labor of your boys at Mobile, you may obtain, by appointing an agent there, to receipt for you, or if you prefer waiting, as soon as a settlement & adjustment of accounts ~~here~~ can be had there, with the Engineer Department, an Agent of the State will visit the Counties, charged with the payment of owners. Such certificates could not be received in the payment of taxes, because they are unliquidated demands, & also, because they are primarily payable by the Engineer department of the Confederate States.

I regret, exceedingly, the delay in the answer to your letter, but I know you would pity rather than blame me, if you could see the accumulated pressure of the last few Weeks.

I beg to assure you of my kindest regards
and am.
Very Respfly
Your Obt Servt.

(Signed) Duncan Stanton
Gov. of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 13th, 1863.

Mr Charles Petty, Clayton, Ala. Sir; I am notified by Col. E. D. Shorter, A. D. C. that Mr Russell, Salt-Contractor, has delivered some Salt in his Contract, to Mr McKenzie at Eufaula. As his Contract is divided equally, between Clayton & Eufaula, I have appointed you Agent for the rec't & Sale at Clayton, & refer you to the 4th Section of Act N° 37, a copy of which has been forwarded to you, for instructions, as to the Manner of Sale &. You will find, enclosed, a copy of Mr Russell's Contract. To the Contract price, you will add all expenses, & Sell, as directed in the Law. The object is, simply, to re-imburse the State. You will be allowed five per Cent Commissions, (not however, to exceed $500) which must be added to the cost. The enclosed Circular will show the Manner of making your returns, & you will deposit Semi Monthly, in the Eastern Bank, to the credit of the Treasurer of the State, nett Amounts rec'd & forward receipt with your account. & Mr Russell's accounts will be audited here, upon rec't from you, & Mr McKenzie of deliveries. You will give preference, in Sales, to those requiring but twenty-five pounds, and purchasers must furnish their own Sacks. The Sacks rec'd by you, from the Contractor, you will return to him for future transportation. Very Resp'y (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 13th, 1863

A. McKenzie, Esq. Eufaula, Ala. Sir; I am notified, by Col. E. D. Shorter, that Mr Russell, Salt-Contractor, has commenced delivery to you, & that you desire instructions, as to Sale. &. I have forwarded to you, Copy of the Salt-Act, passed at the Last Session of the Legislature, and invite your attention to the 4th Section of N° 37. which contains full directions as to Sale. You will find, enclosed herewith, a copy of Mr Russell's contract. To the Contract price, you will add all expenses, and Sell, as directed in the Law. The object is simply to re-imburse the State. You will be allowed five per Cent commissions, (not to exceed, however, $1500) which must be added to the cost. The enclosed Circular will show the manner of making your returns, & you will deposit, Semi Monthly, in the Eastern Bank, to the credit of the Treasurer of the State, the Nett amounts received from Sales, & forward rec'ts with your account &. Mr Russell's accounts will be audited here upon the Shewing of rec'ts by State-Agents - yourself & Mr Charles Petty, - at Eufaula & Clayton. Mr Petty has been, Similarly, instructed. You need not, therefore, make payment to him &. You will give preference, in Sales, to those requiring but twenty five pounds, & purchasers must furnish their own Sacks. &. Col. Pickett will send you 150 Sacks, by Express, as requested, for the use of the Contractor. Yours, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 13th, 1863.

Gen. Brayton Bragg, Comm'g Oullahoma. Tennessee.

Sir; I respectfully refer to your kind consideration, the enclosed letter of Mr D. B. Graham, State-Treasurer, addressed to Mr Joseph Goode, who, I understand, is upon - or connected with your Staff. &. Mr Graham is one of those invaluable Officers, whose Study and desire is, only, for the good & Security of the State. As the War has increased his labors, & enlarged his responsibilities, the labors of a faithful & efficient clerk, are of the greatest importance to him, and his acquaintance with Mr Goode, & his knowledge of his abilities, & fitness for the Task, have induced him to Solicit Mr Goode to take charge of that Post, which has now been vacant, for Some weeks. &. I need Scarcely remind you, that the Treasury of Alabama, to the extent of its resources, has ever been open to the Confederacy, but I may Say that its ability to aid the Common Cause, has been due, in great Measure, to the faithfulness & efficiency of her present Treasurer, & his prudence & foresight. &. By an act of the late Congress, the Military Authorities are authorized to discharge from the Service, parties who have been elected or appointed to State Offices, and I, respectfully ask that you will forward to Mr Goode, the enclosed, for his acceptance, and either order his detail, or his discharge, to assume the duties of the Office, or recommend the Same to the Secretary of War.

I would Say, in addition, that Should you see proper to give a favorable consideration to this request, it will be, most gratefully received by his afflicted - recently Widowed Sister who is without a relative, or near Kinsman, to whom to look, in her bereavement.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov of Ala

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

Lt. Col. Frank Prince, Commanding 18th Regt. Ala. Mil. Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Sir; I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. & congratulate you, & the State upon the happy termination of the late Raid into our borders, & the ready will of the people of your city & County, to meet, & repel the enemy. I should, most certainly, have approved your ordering out the whole of your force had the Enemy advanced upon your City. Your Military duty would, doubtless, have been, to order out your force, & hold it in readiness, & report, in the mean-time, to your Division Commander. But, in an emergency, not admitting of delay, it would have been your duty, at once, to have met, & checked the Enemy: and I should, not only, have approved, but applauded the course. I am proud to know that your Regiment is in such a State of efficiency, as to justify you, in that reliance upon your Command.

The consolidation of regiments is a matter beyond the Executive control, & belonging, exclusively, to the Legislature. I doubt not that in many parts of the State, it would increase the efficiency of the Militia. Very Resp'y, (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

Mr. A. Powell, Mobile. Sir; I embrace the earliest opportunity to reply to your letter of 8th inst. & am not at all surprized at the impatient tone in which you write. I pass-over all delinquencies charged upon the Governor of Alabama, with the simple denial that he is, officially or personally, responsible for the defaults, & improper conduct of the officers & agents of the Confederate Government. The Military Commander, at Mobile, in making a requisition for slave-laborers, stated that a force of five thousand could make Mobile impregnable in thirty days. Well-knowing, that it would be impossible to distribute this heavy requisition fairly, and gather that number together, in Mobile, at an early day, I, naturally concluded that half that number could do the work in Sixty days. Yet I have supplied the Engineer Department with an average of 2600 laborers, for 90 days, & the works are not yet finished. I was aware of the sickness among the negroes, & well knew, that the greater the numbers together there, at any one time, the greater w^d be the sickness & mortality among them, at any one time. My purpose, in filling the requisition for labor, was, so to apportion it, that, as the sixty days' service expired, others would be coming-in, to take their places; but, in some instances, the Impressment agents were tardy, in sending forward their impressments. But whether the State Agents have been in default or not, the fact is— the Slaves were turned-over to the Military authorities of Mobile, by the Governor of the State, under a law of the State, & for a period of service of sixty days— of all of which they were duly informed. But, in defiance of the law, & in disregard of the repeated requests of the State Executive, they have refused to discharge some of the Slaves, while improperly releasing others. This unauthorised & disrespectful course towards the State has been communicated, directly, to the Secretary of War, who has been requested to issue a peremptory order to the Commander at Mobile, to observe the instructions of the Executive of Alabama, as to the discharge of Slave-labor, furnished by the State. The many complaints as to the manner in which the Slaves have been fed, & their treatment in sickness, have been, before made, & by me, communicated to the Commandant at Mobile, with an urgent request that they might be corrected. I protest against being held accountable for the omission of duty, by officers over whom I have no control. Resp'y &c (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. May 12th, 1863.

Col. P. Hamilton, A. D. C. Mobile. Sir, I herewith hand you a copy of a letter from Mr. A. Powell, one of the overseers of hands at Mobile, & my reply, which, I have to request you will cause to be delivered to him. I do not know him or the County he is from, but, I regret to say, that his complaints are too well-founded. The Military authorities at Mobile have, wilfully, trampled the Law of Alabama, under their feet; & in reply to an official request, by her Executive to discharge Slaves-turned-over, by him to them, for the limited service provided by Law, have, insultingly notified him, that when he sent other Slaves, those in their hands shall be discharged. The correspondence, on file, in the Executive Office, will abundantly prove that the failure to complete the works is not attributable to any default, on part of the State Authorities, but to the blunders in the estimates of the Military Department at Mobile, as to the quantity & time of labor needed for the undertaking. The disrespect with which my repeated letters of request, & earnest protest have been treated, has determined me to order no more Slaves to the work in Mobile, until after the grain-crops shall have been secured; and not then, unless the proper Amende is made for the past discourtesies, & a written guarantee is filed in this office, that my orders shall be obeyed, & the former abuses discontinued.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

P.S. Please send my letter to Mr. Powell.